# 三国志 35

## 成都攻略戦

## 横山光輝

希望コミックス 106

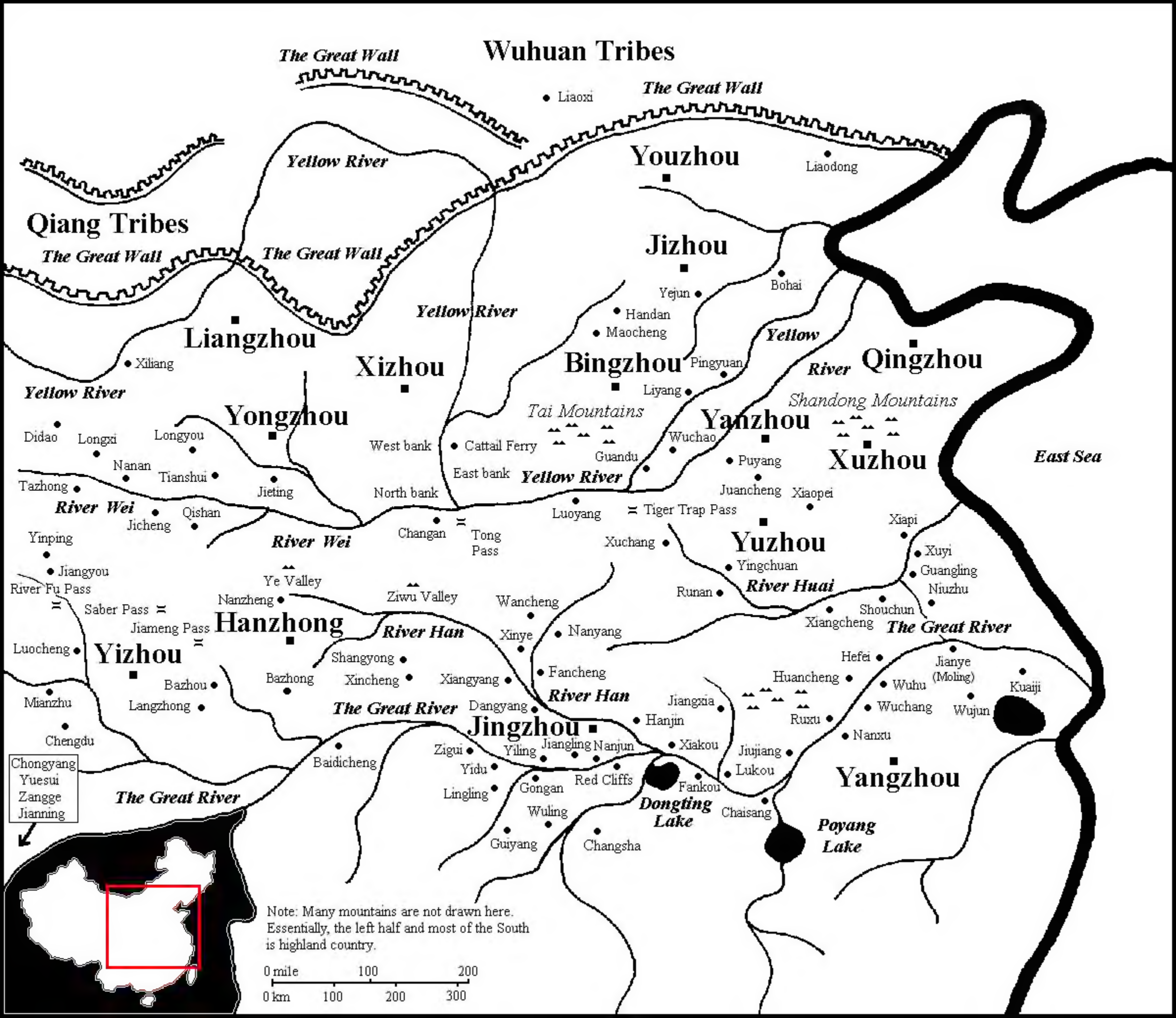
SANGOKUSHI

35

# BATTLE FOR CHENGDU

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

ZHANG FEI YIDE


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

# MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. HAVING BECOME THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE HAS RELEGATED EMPEROR XIAN AS A MERE PUPPET RULER.

CAO REN:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.

CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT SINCE THE END OF V28, HE NOW SERVES LIU BEI.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.

LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.

LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU SU:
MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.

MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.

MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. DUE TO AN ILLNESS, HE REMAINED IN HANZHONG AND COULD NOT ACCOMPANY MA CHAO TO SHU, AND CONSEQUENTLY NOT ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTHLANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.

SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.

SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.

XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. HE PROVIDED MA CHAO REFUGE WHEN HE WAS DEFEATED BY CAO CAO AT WEI RIVER.

ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).

ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

# SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

# 三国志

## VOLUME 35
## BATTLE FOR CHENGDU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〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

# ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS

GIVE IT UP, LIU BEI! YOUR LUCK'S FINALLY RUN DRY!

AHH!

IS THIS REALLY MY GRAVE...?

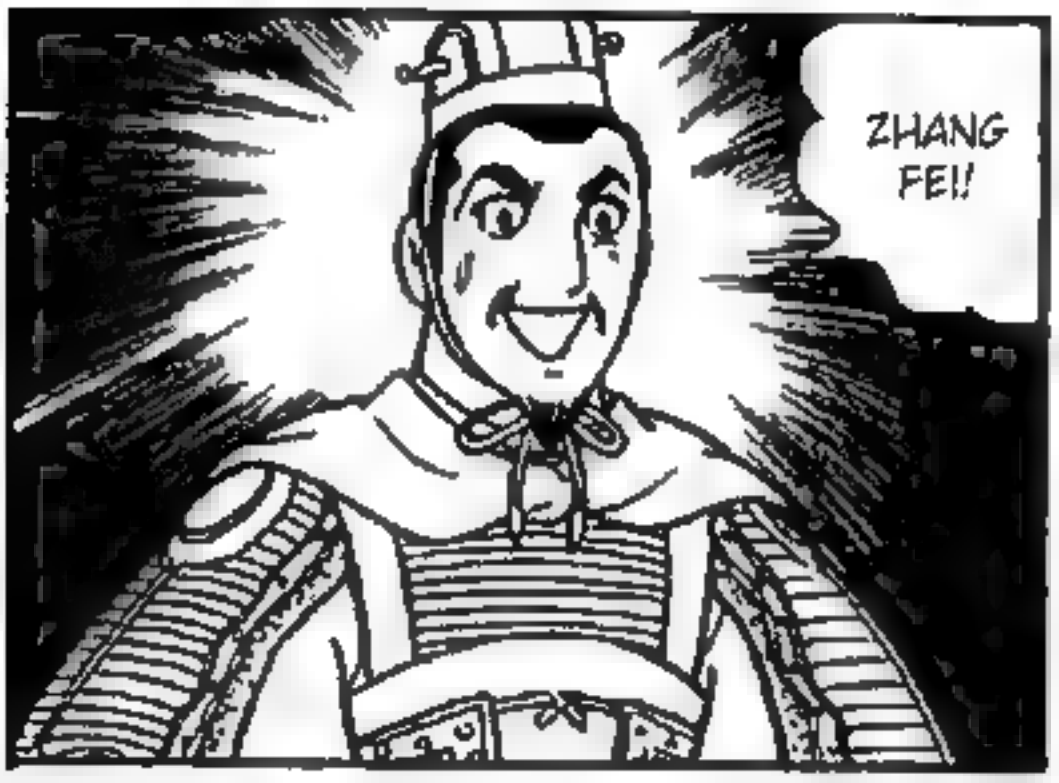
T-THERE ARE ENEMIES HERE TOO!?

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A FIGHT OVER THERE.

HM?

COME ON, MEN! LET US FIGHT THEM IF THEY'RE ENEMIES!

HUH!?


ZHANG FEI!

IS THAT YOU, MY LORD!?

?

THAT'S ONE OF THE SHU GENERALS!

W-WHEN DID HE PLACE SUCH A SIZEABLE FORCE FOR AN AMBUSH...?

FALL BACK!

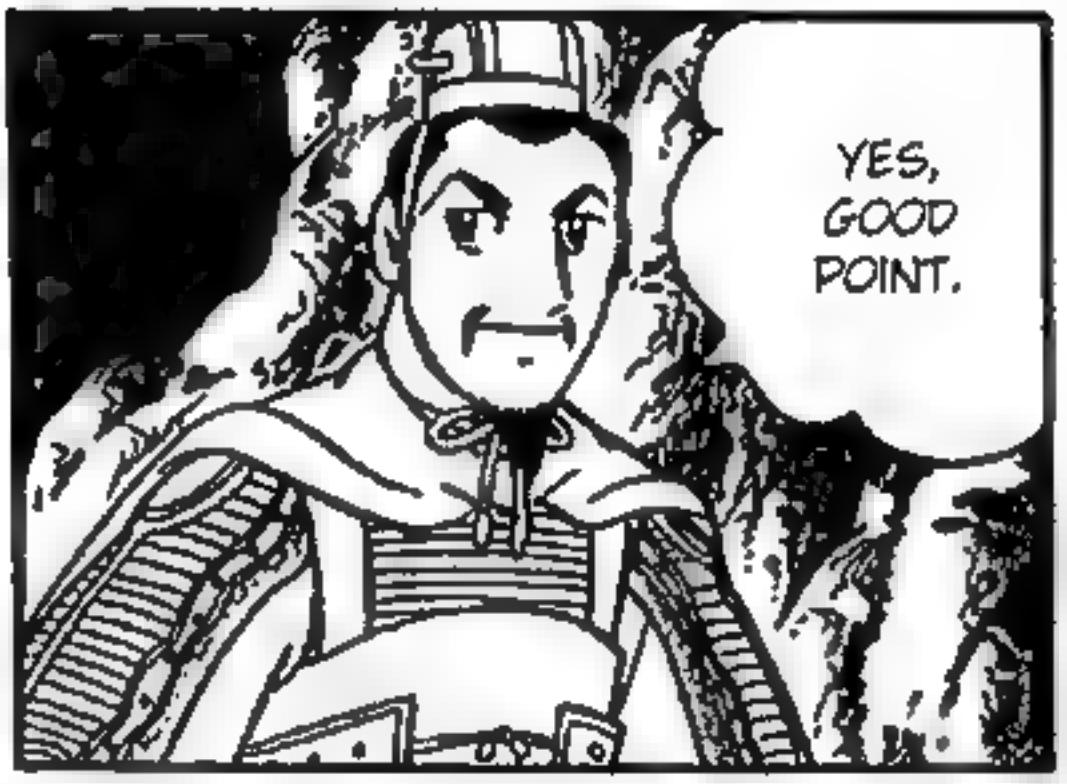
I TRIED MOUNTING ANOTHER OFFENSIVE ON LUO, BUT WE ENDED UP FALLING FOR THEIR TRAP.

WHAT IN HEAVENS ARE YOU DOING HERE ALONE!?

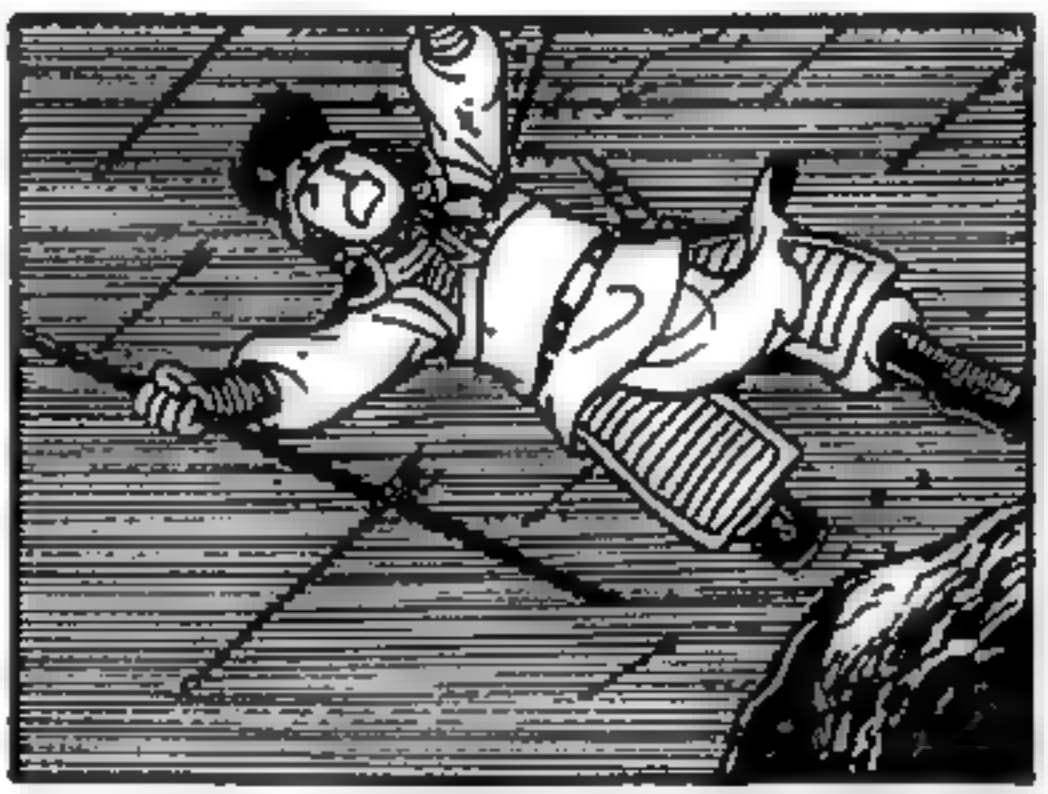
LET US SAVE THE TALKING UNTIL WE'VE RESCUED YOUR TROOPS.

IN ANY CASE, HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET HERE SO QUICKLY?

COME ON, MEN!


YES, GOOD POINT.

HUH?



HMM?

...?

HM?

DO NOT FALTER, COMRADES! ZHANG FEI IS HERE!

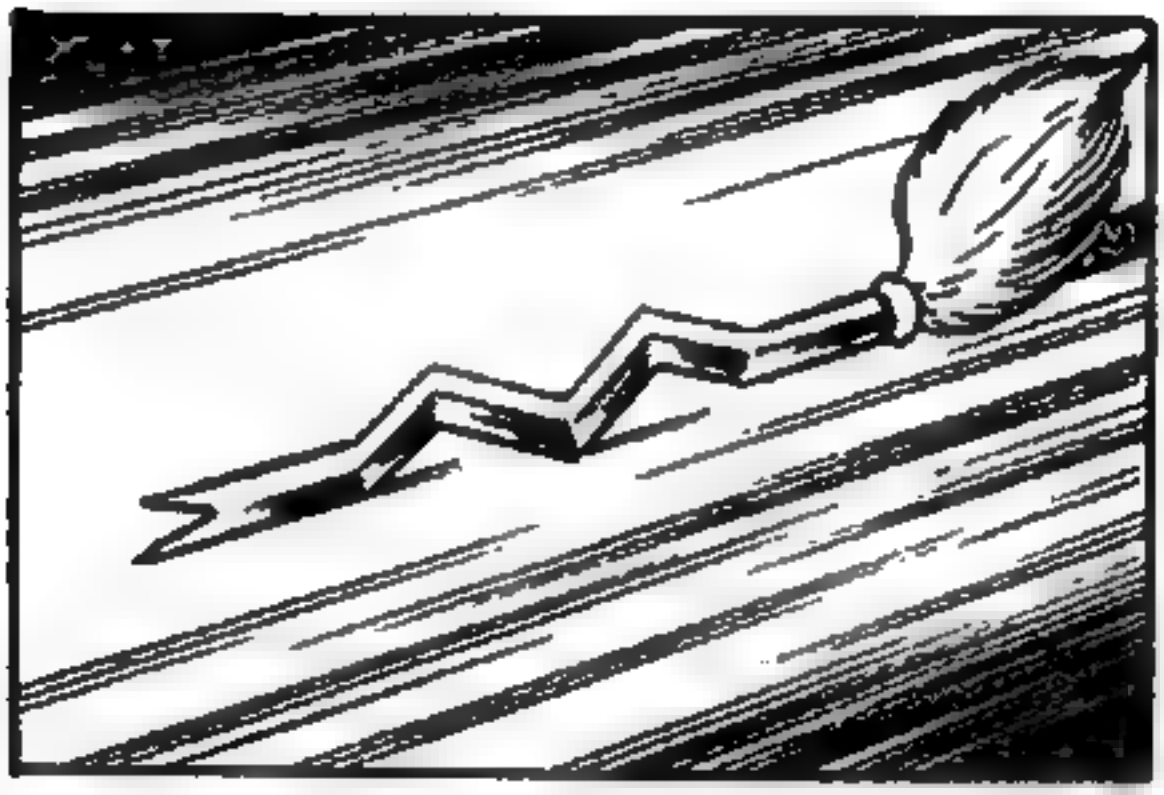
FRIEND?

OR FOE...?

REIN-FORCE-MENTS!

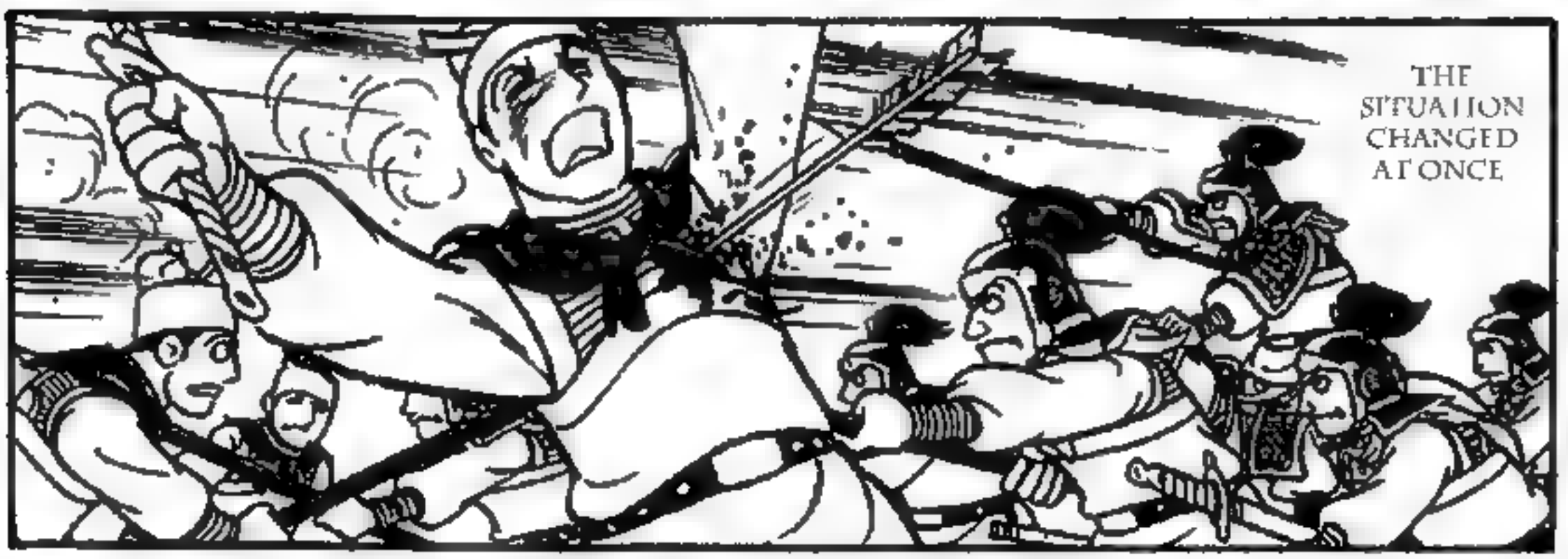
FINALLY!

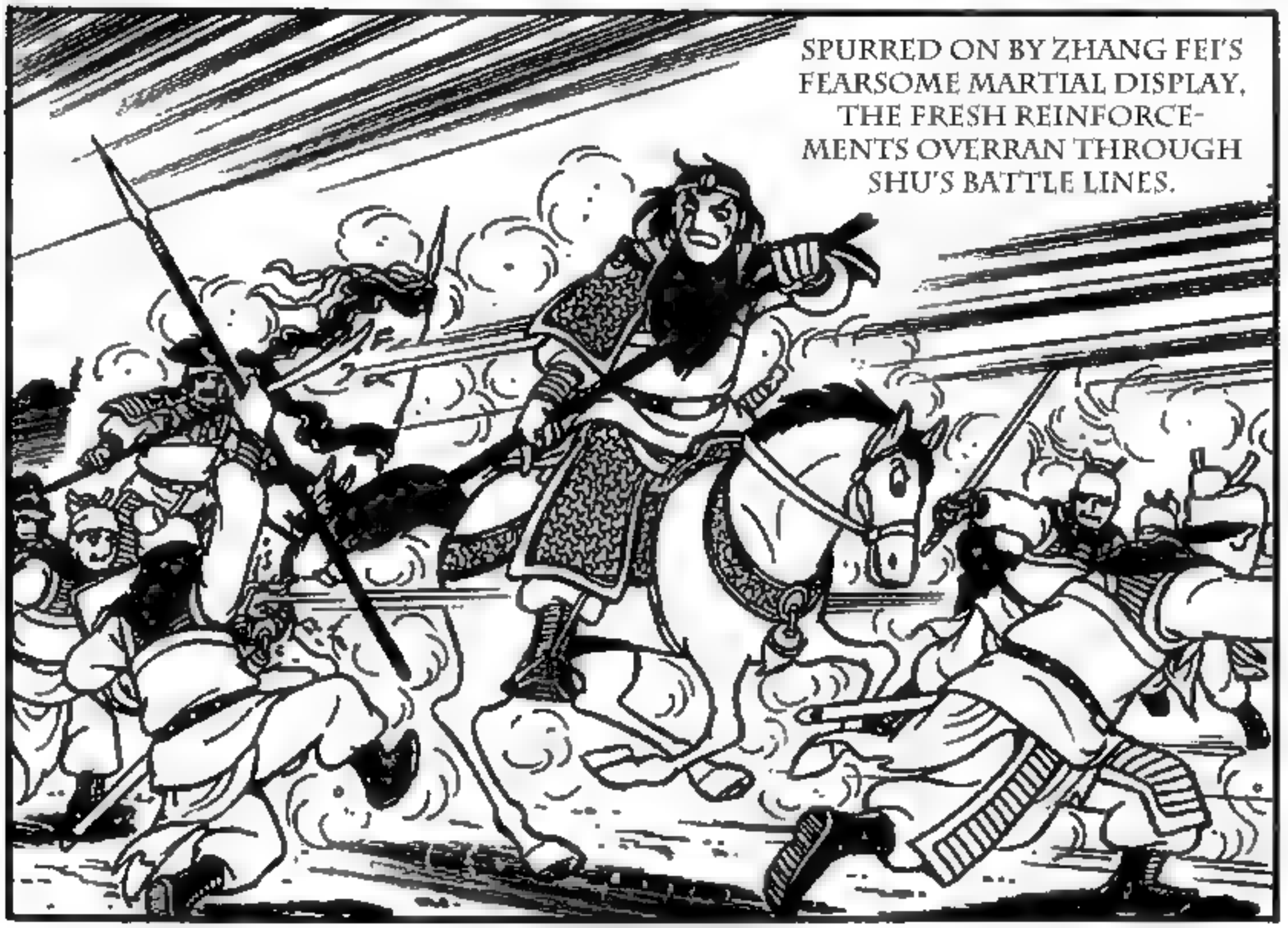
GENERAL!



THE FAMED BUTCHER OF JINGZHOU HAS ARRIVED, YOU SHU-SCUM!

張

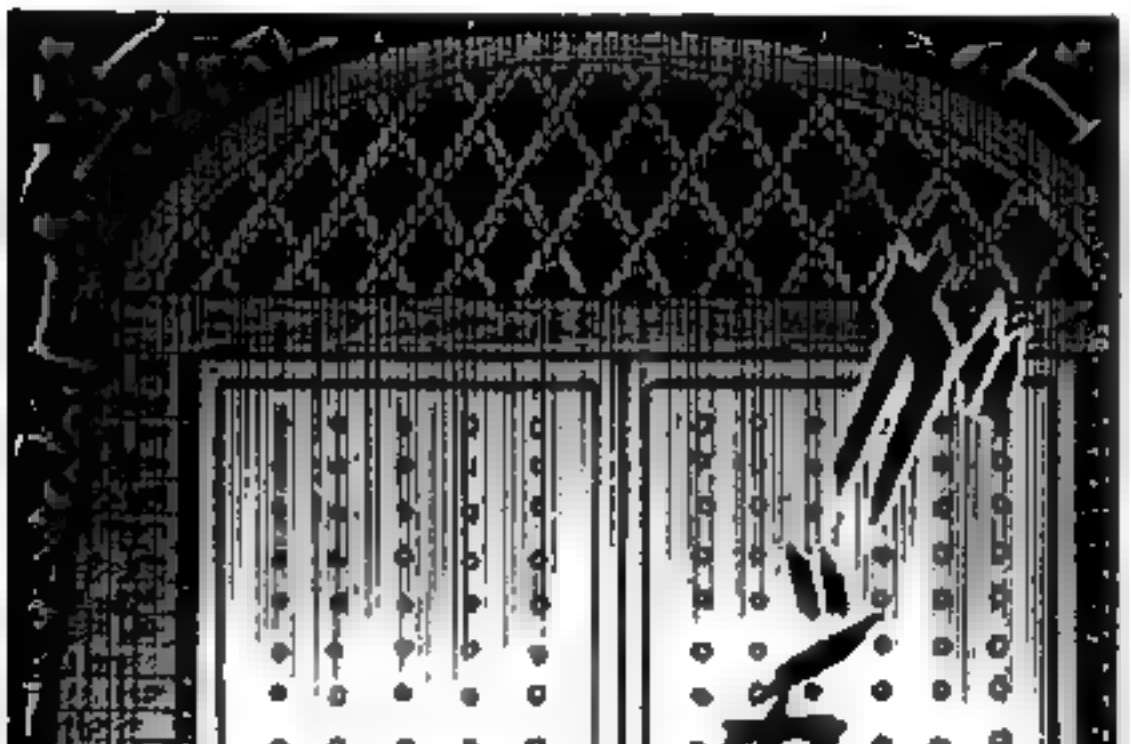

THE SITUATION CHANGED AT ONCE


SPURRED ON BY ZHANG FEI'S FEARSOME MARTIAL DISPLAY, THE FRESH REINFORCE-MENTS OVERRAN THROUGH SHU'S BATTLE LINES.

蜀


SUCH INTEN-SITY!

RETREAT! RETREAT!



NO, OUR FORCES ARE EXHAUSTED AND LUO'S DEFENSES ARE STILL SOLID. FOR THE TIME BEING, LET US RETREAT TO FU RIVER PASS AND FORM A NEW STRATEGY.

THE ENEMIES HAVE HOLED THEMSELVES UP BACK IN THEIR FORT AGAIN, MY LORD. SHALL WE SET UP A SIEGE?

YES, SIR.

TELL HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN TO CEASE THEIR ASSAULT OF THE EASTERN GATES AND RETREAT AS WELL.

劉

劉

TIGER PASS

YES.

SO YAN YAN LED YOU ALL THE WAY TO LUO?

THERE WERE OVER 30 FORTS AND PASSES FROM BAZHOU TO LUO, BUT AS THEY WERE ALL UNDER YAN YAN'S AUTHORITY, HE ORDERED THEM TO LET MY FORCES THROUGH WITHOUT RESISTANCE. HIS ASSISTANCE IS WHY I MANAGED TO REACH LUO SO QUICKLY.

I GIVE YOU MY SINCER-EST THANKS, YAN YAN.

I SEE!

I COULD NOT BE MORE DELIGHTED TO HAVE GAINED SUCH A TALENTED GENERAL.

I HEARD FROM ZHANG FEI THAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE PEOPLE. AS LONG AS YOUR HEART REMAINS TRUE, I WOULD BE HONOURED TO SERVE YOU.

YOU HONOUR ME.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SUIT OF ARMOUR AS A SIGN OF MY APPRECIATION.

OH THEY DID MORE THAN RETREAT SAFELY. THEY'VE EVEN CAPTURED THE ENEMY GENERALS.

THEY DID!?

AH, GOOD. THEY'VE MANAGED TO RETREAT SAFELY.

HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN HAVE JUST RETURNED, MY LORD.

VERY IMPRESSIVE, HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN.

THIS IS WU LAN AND LEI TONG.

RAISE YOUR HEADS, WU LAN AND LEI TONG.

HM!?

THEY CAUGHT YOU TOO, YAN YAN!?

UNLIKE CAO CAO WHO SEEKS TO FURTHER ONLY HIS AMBITION, THE IMPERIAL UNCLE ENDEAVOURS ONLY TO HELP THE PEOPLE AND STOP CAO CAO'S UNLAWFUL ASPIRATIONS.

YES, BUT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO SERVE THE IMPERIAL UNCLE FROM NOW ON.

THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT SHU'S CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. EVEN IF ZHANG LU DID NOT THREATEN US, CAO CAO WILL SURELY ASPIRE TO CONQUER THESE LANDS IN DUE TIME.

HIS GREATEST DESIRE IS TO RESTORE STABILITY TO THE HAN DYNASTY.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY TO HELPING LIU BEI INSTEAD AND SECURING PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF SHU?

MN...

SERVE ME WELL AND I'LL GUARANTEE YOUR RANKS AND GOOD TIDINGS.

AS LONG AS YOU WILL PRIORITIZE THE SAFETY OF SHU,

WE WILL TRY TO BE OF SERVICE IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

IF EVEN YAN YAN HAS DECIDED TO SERVE HIM, HE MUST BE QUITE AN IDEAL LORD...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, LEI TONG?

YES, I PROMISE I WILL TURN SHU INTO A PROSPEROUS AND SAFE PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE.

YES, THE SCOUTS SPOTTED THEM AMIDST THE ENEMY CAMP AND CHATTING WITH THE OTHER OFFICERS.

WHAT!? WU LAN AND LEI TONG DEFECTED TO LIU BEI!?

SO HOW MANY DO THEY NOW NUMBER?


SPINELESS TRAITORS... DO THEY NOT HAVE EVEN A SPECK OF SHU PRIDE?

HMM...
THEY'VE MULTIPLIED SEVERAL TIMES IN NUMBER AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF REINFORCE-MENTS LED BY ZHANG FEI AND THE DEFECTION OF YAN YAN, WU LAN, AND LEI TONG.

NOT ONLY THAT, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH ZHANG FEI NOW, THE MAN WHO CHASED AWAY CAO CAO'S MILLION-MAN ARMY AT CHANGBAN BRIDGE SINGLE-HANDEDLY...

ZHANG REN, I'M AFRAID LUO WON'T HOLD FOR LONG UNLESS WE HAVE REINFORCEMENTS OF OUR OWN.

YES, EXACTLY.

AFTER WITNESSING HIS PROWESS IN THE RECENT BATTLE, OUR TROOPS ARE ALMOST PARALYZED WITH FEAR.

IF WE WERE TO CATCH ZHANG FEI, OUR MEN'S MORALE WOULD SKYROCKET AND THEIRS WOULD NO DOUBT PLUMMET.

THE FORTRESS HERE AT LUO IS SOLID AND NOT ONE TO BE CAPTURED EASILY EVEN WHEN BESIEGED BY A LARGE ARMY. THE REAL PROBLEM IS THE MORALE OF THE TROOPS.

I HEAR ZHANG FEI IS LIKE A BOAR, PRONE TO CHARGING AND UNLIKELY TO RETREAT.

...CATCH ZHANG FEI!?

WE CAN USE THAT TEMPERAMENT OF HIS AGAINST HIM. I'M SURE HE'S FEELING OVERCONFIDENT AFTER THE RECENT VICTORY OVER US, AND WISHES TO STORM LUO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I SEE...

BY PLACING TROOPS HERE AND HERE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AMBUSH HIM.

YES. FIRST THEY LOSE THEIR COMMANDER PANG TONG, AND NOW THEIR STAR GENERAL...

IF THIS WORKS, THE ENEMIES WILL FALL INTO COMPLETE DISARRAY.

張
張

SIR! THE ENEMIES HAVE COME OUT FROM THEIR FORT!

AH!

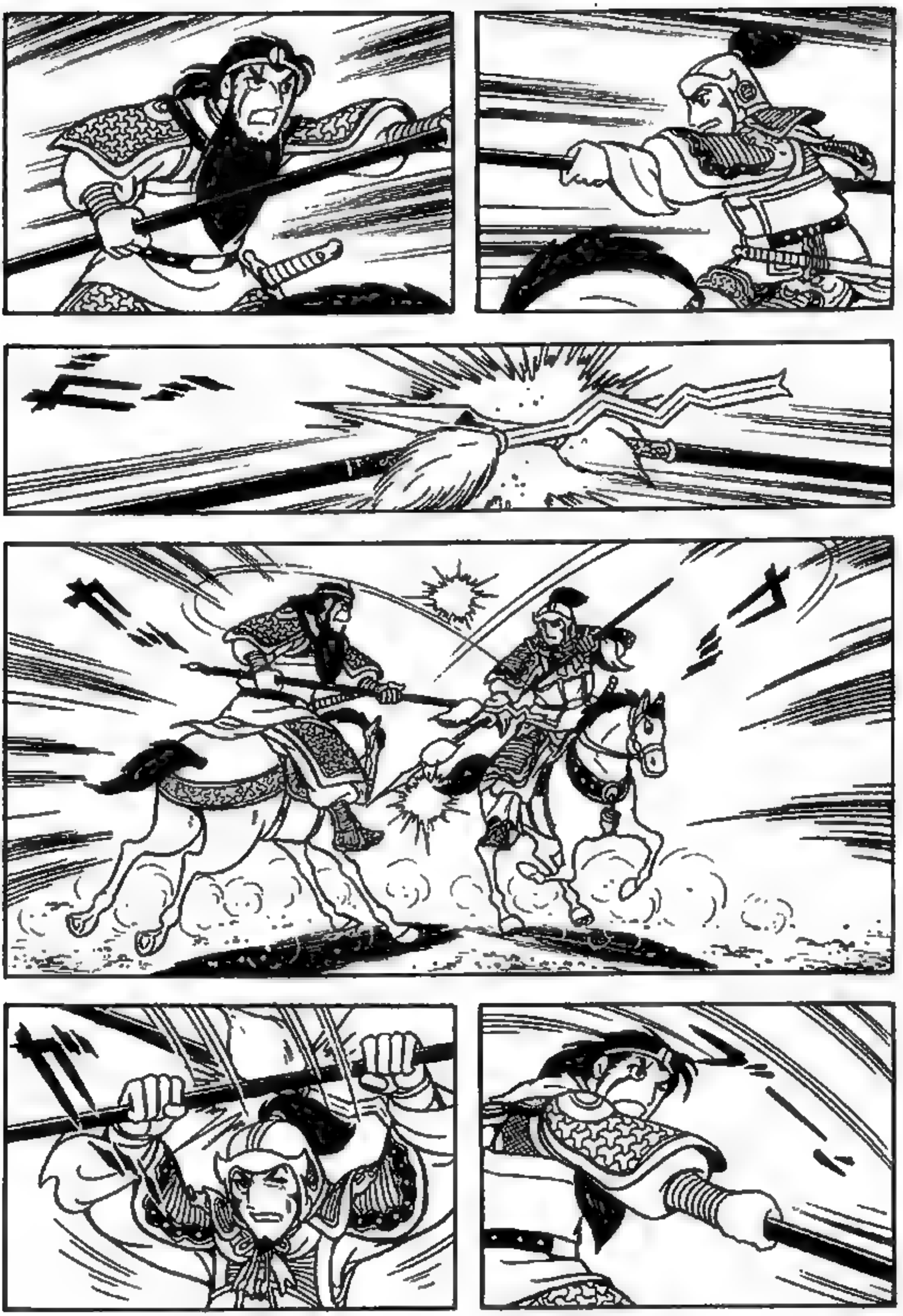
FOLLOW MY LEAD!

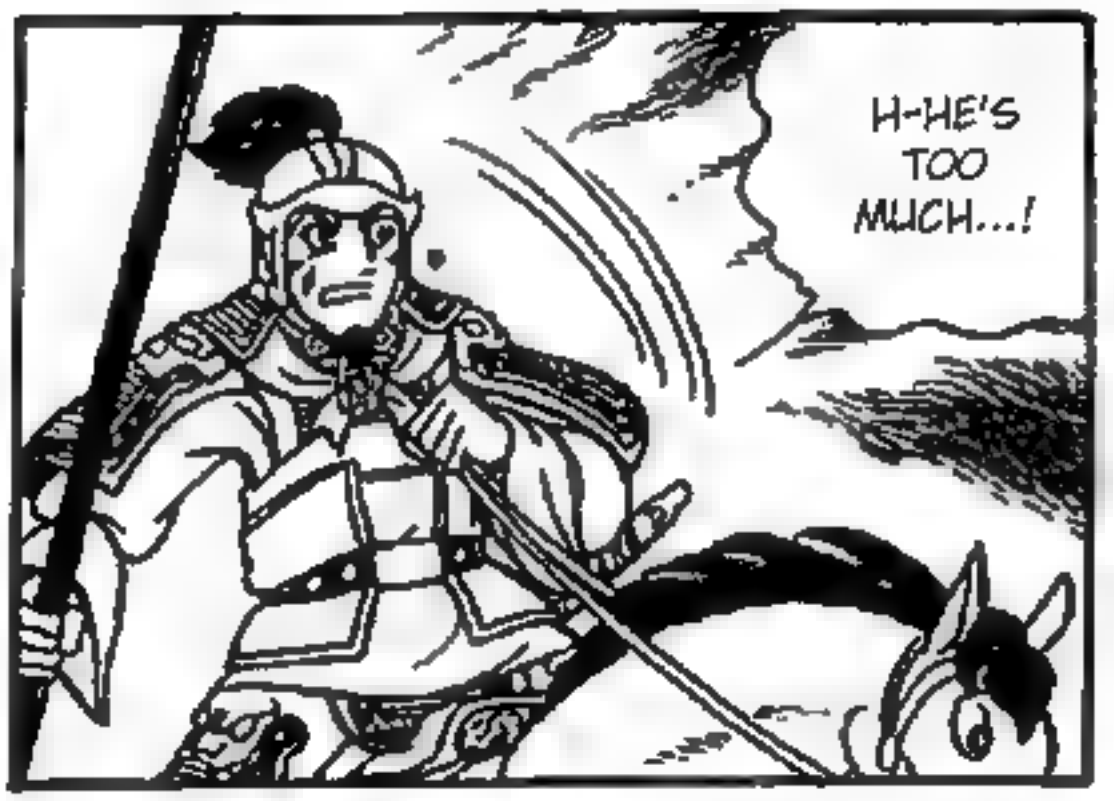
HA, IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LUO'S ALREADY AS GOOD AS OURS!

WHERE'S THE ENEMY GENERAL!? ZHANG FEI WILL GLADLY FIGHT WITH ANY ONE OF YOU!

NO COM-PLAINTS HERE!

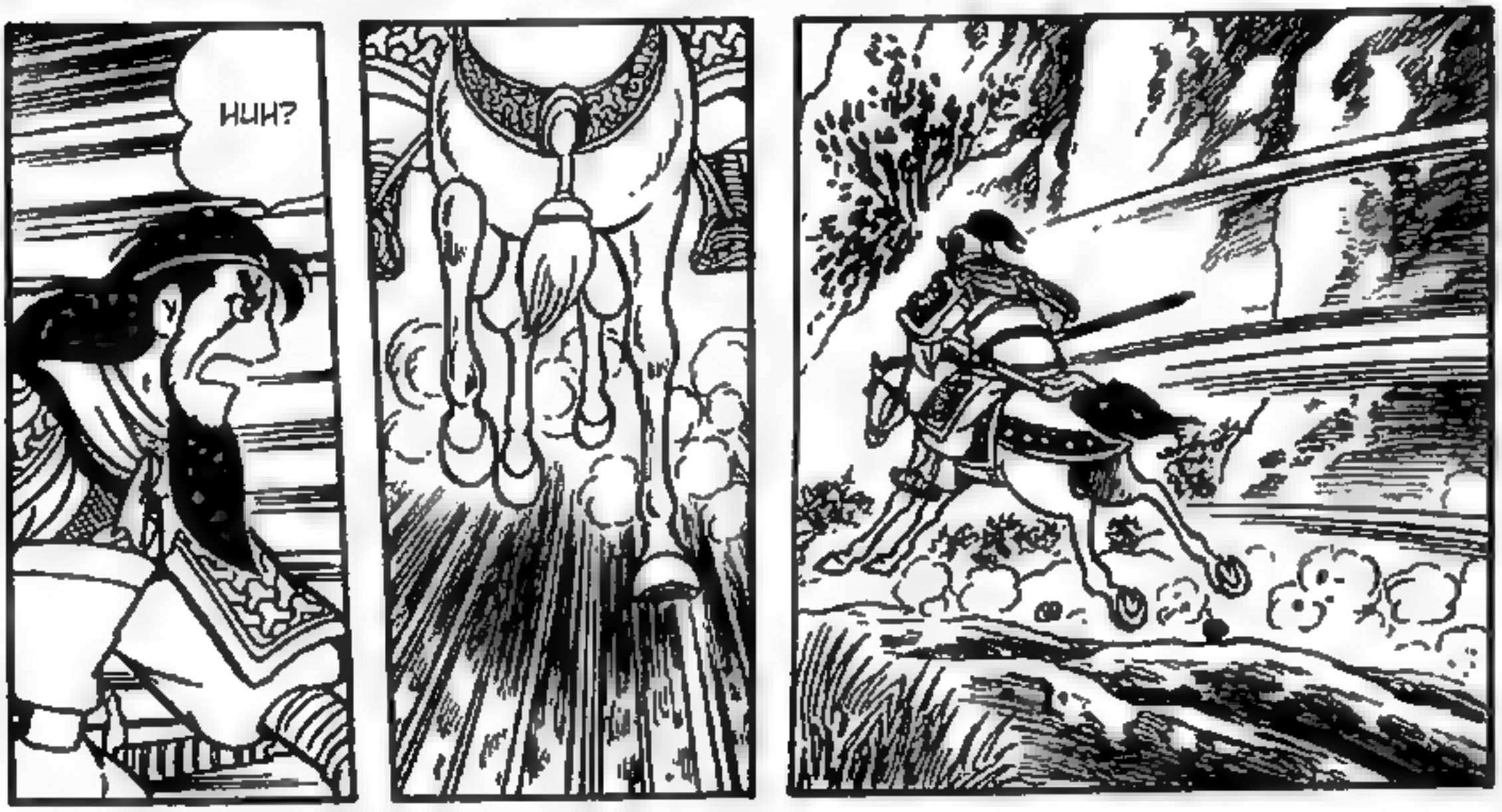
SO YOU'RE THE FAMED ZHANG FEI? I AM ZHANG REN! I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!




H-HE'S TOO MUCH...!

RUNNING AWAY!? STOP RIGHT THERE!

DON'T LET THE ENEMY GENERAL ESCAPE!


HUH?

HM...

I'M AFRAID WE'VE LOST HIM, SIR...

LET US RETURN TO CAMP!

TALK ABOUT CONFUSING TERRAIN. I CAN HARDLY TELL WHICH WAY IS WHERE...

HM?

HM?

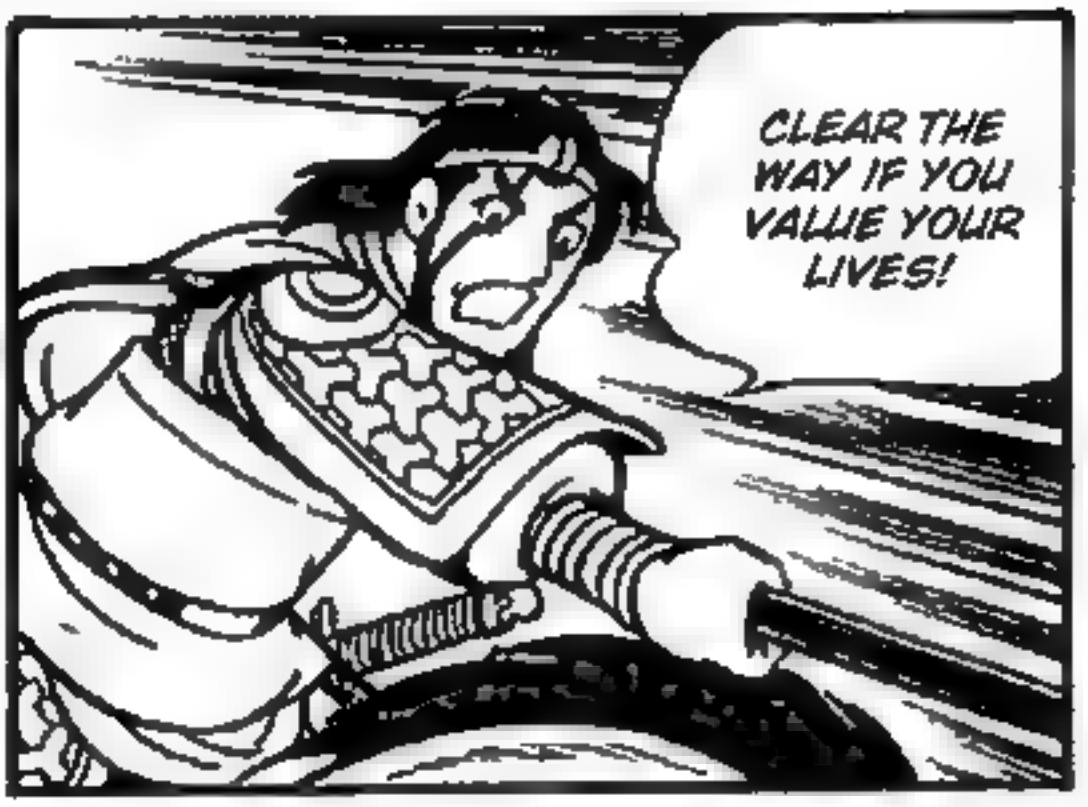
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!

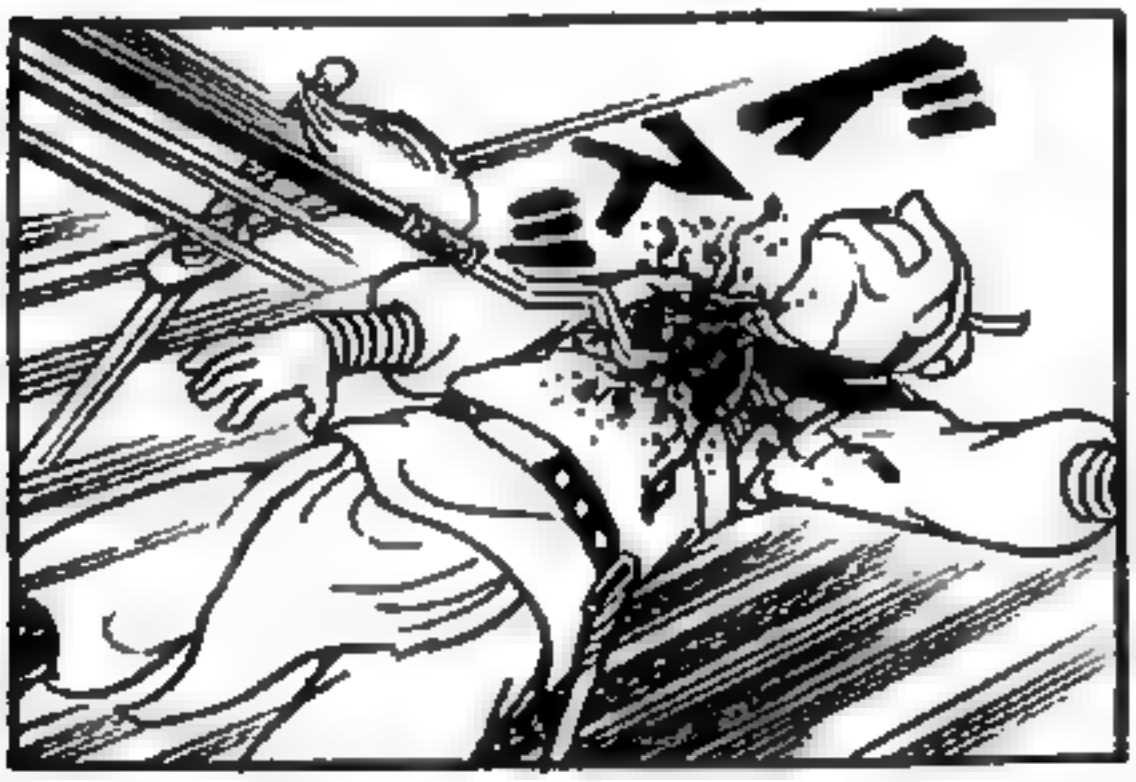
HMM...

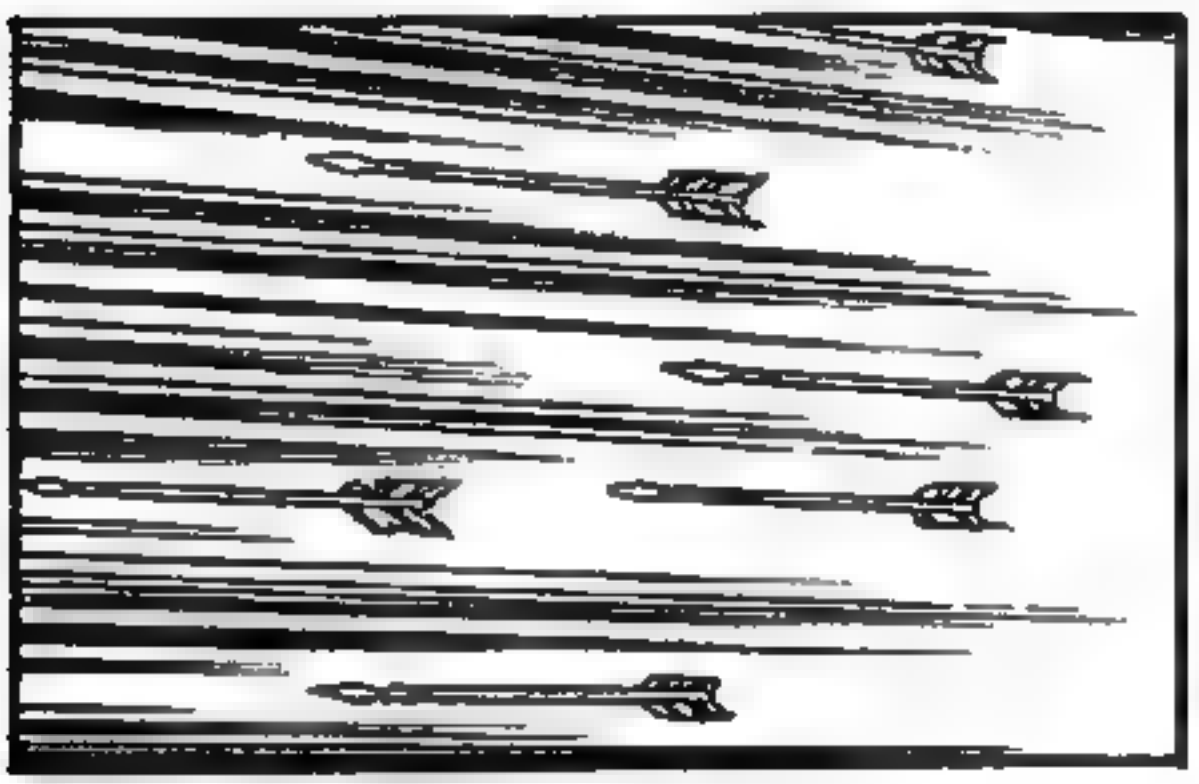
W-WE'VE BEEN COMPLETELY SURROUNDED, SIR!

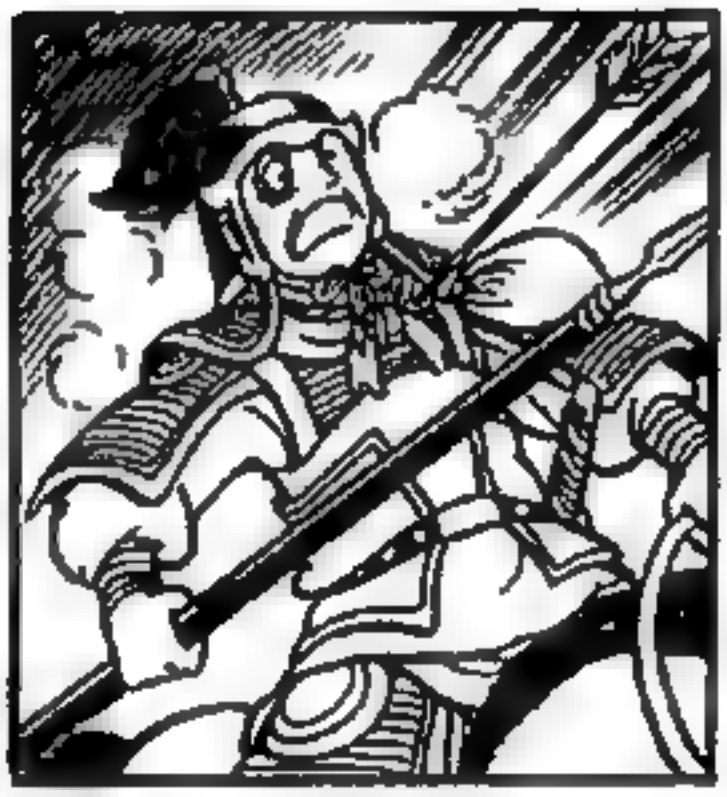
DO NOT LOSE HEART AND FOLLOW MY LEAD! WE'LL BREAK THROUGH THEIR LINES AND RETREAT TO CAMP!

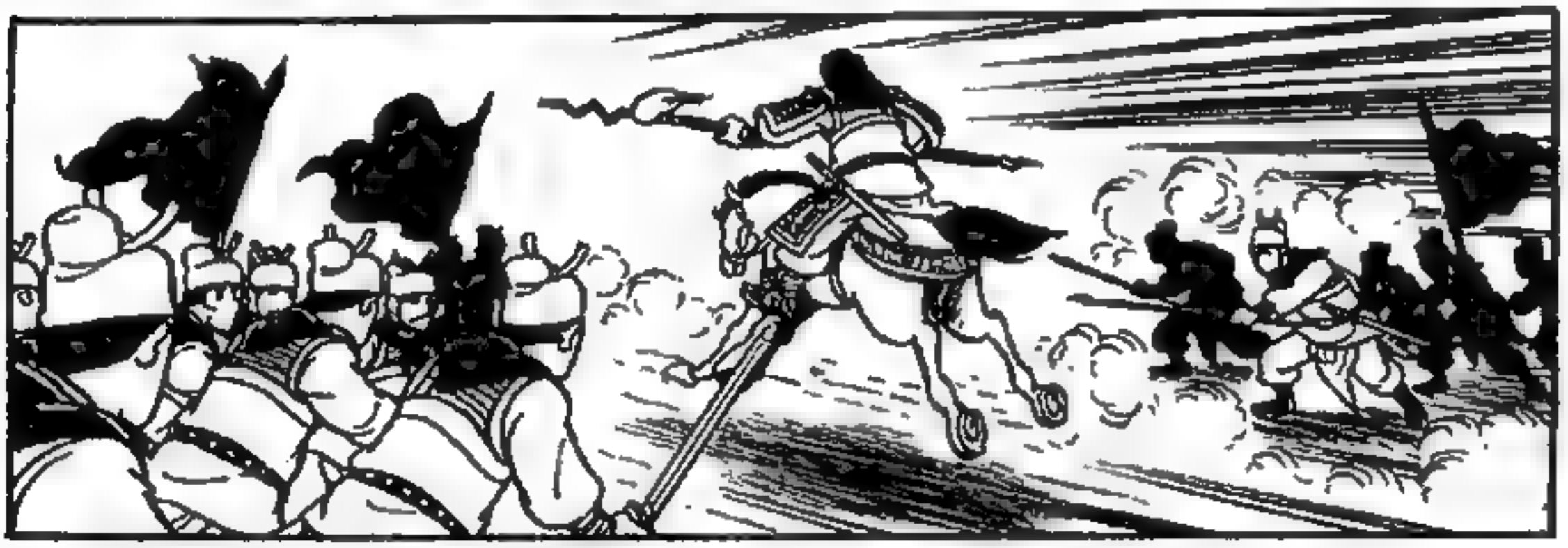
GET OUT OF MY WAY!


CLEAR THE WAY IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES!









DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE! ALL UNITS PACK IN TIGHTLY AND CUT OFF ALL GAPS!

ZHANG FEI! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE DARE SHOW YOUR BACK TO YOUR ENEMIES!?

AHH!

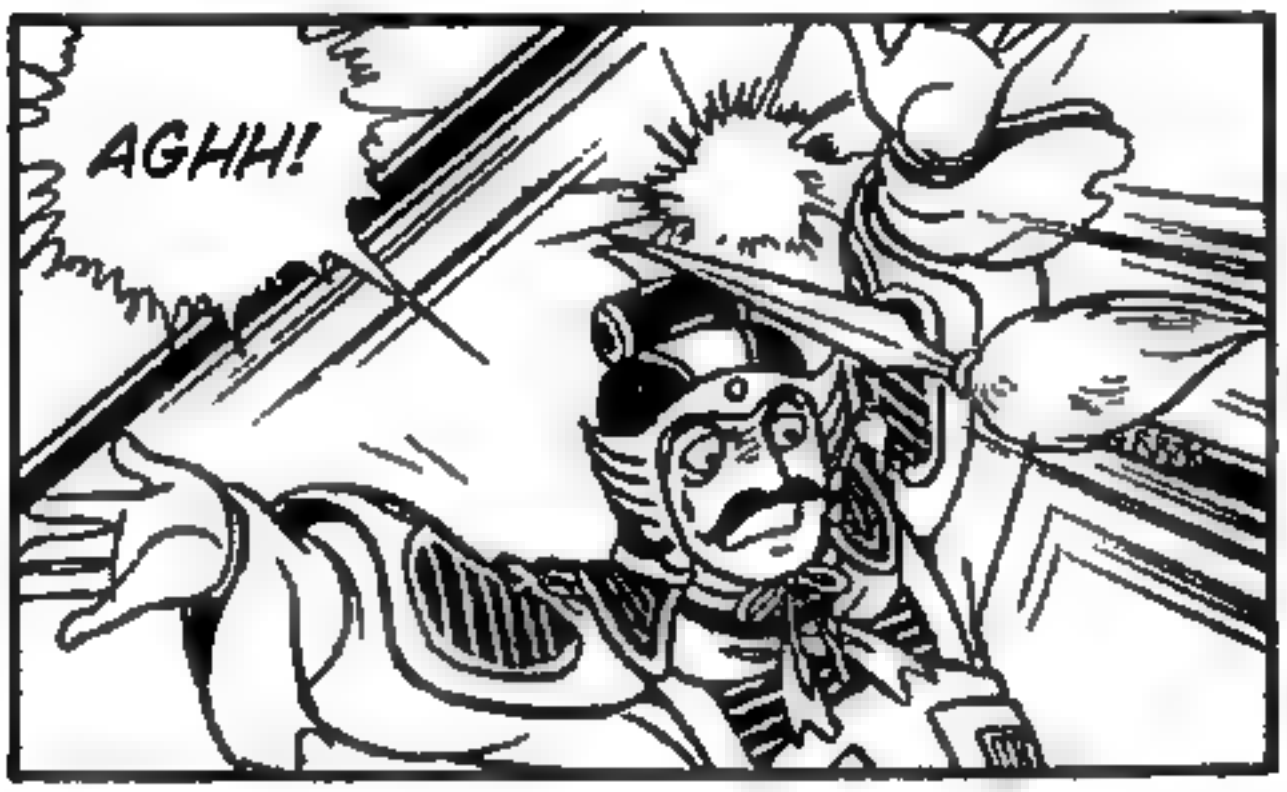
ZHAO ZILONG!

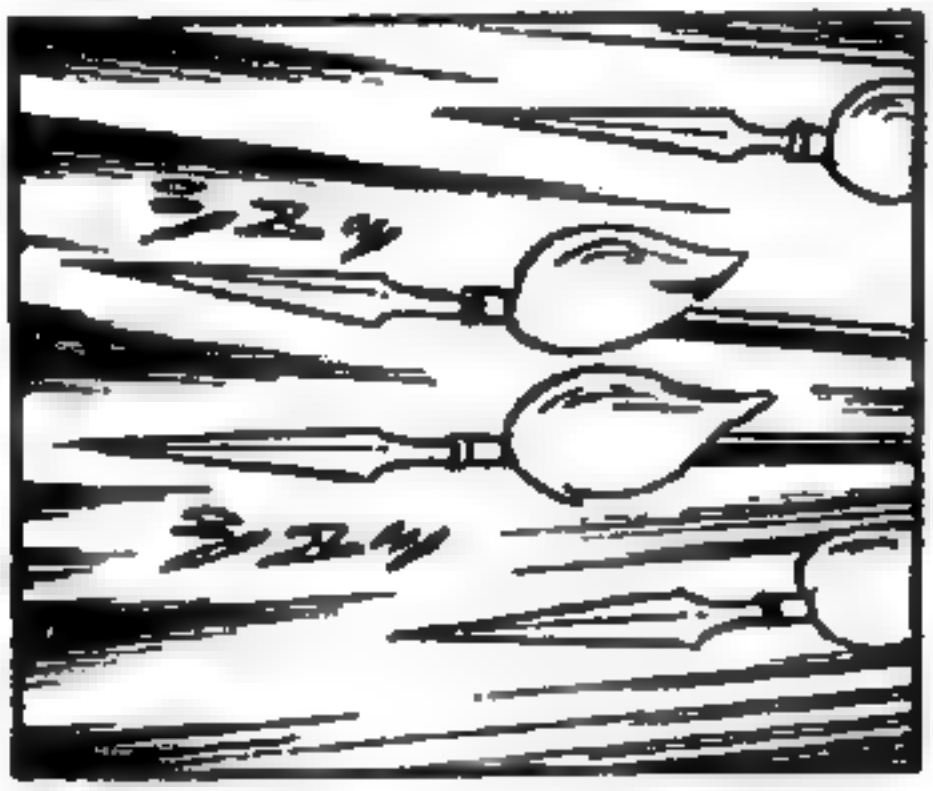
?

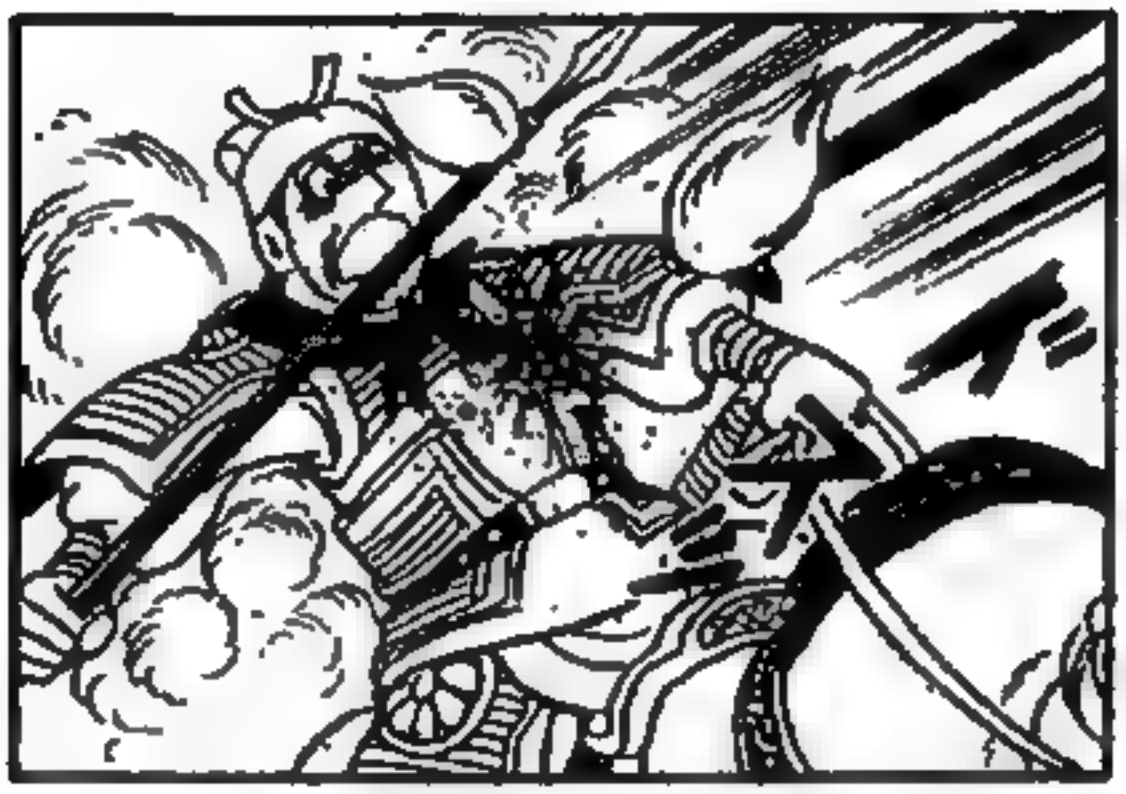
HAHA!

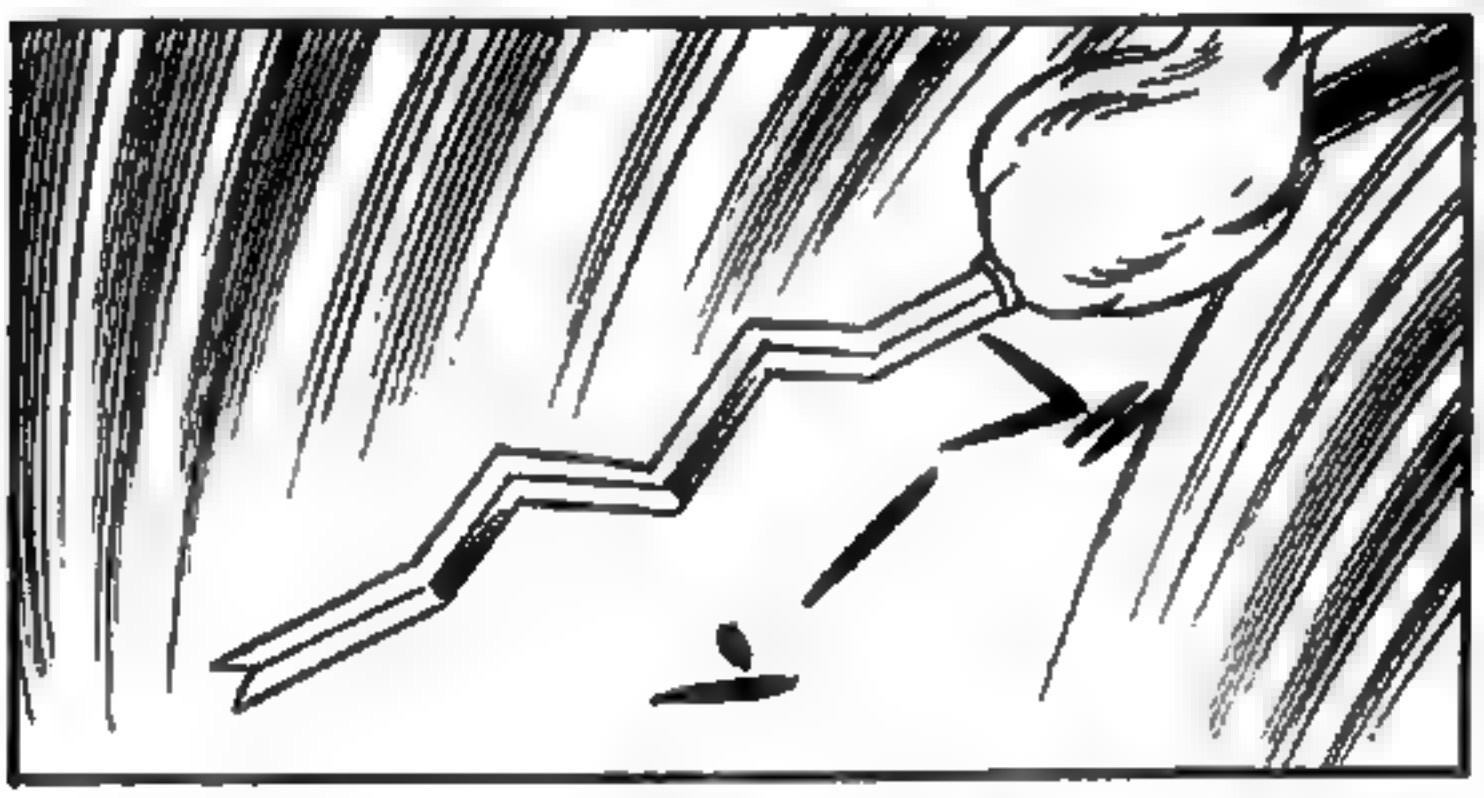
FIGHT ALL YOU WANT, I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

JINGZHOU BOASTS NOT ONLY ZHANG FEI BUT ZHAO ZILONG AS WELL!

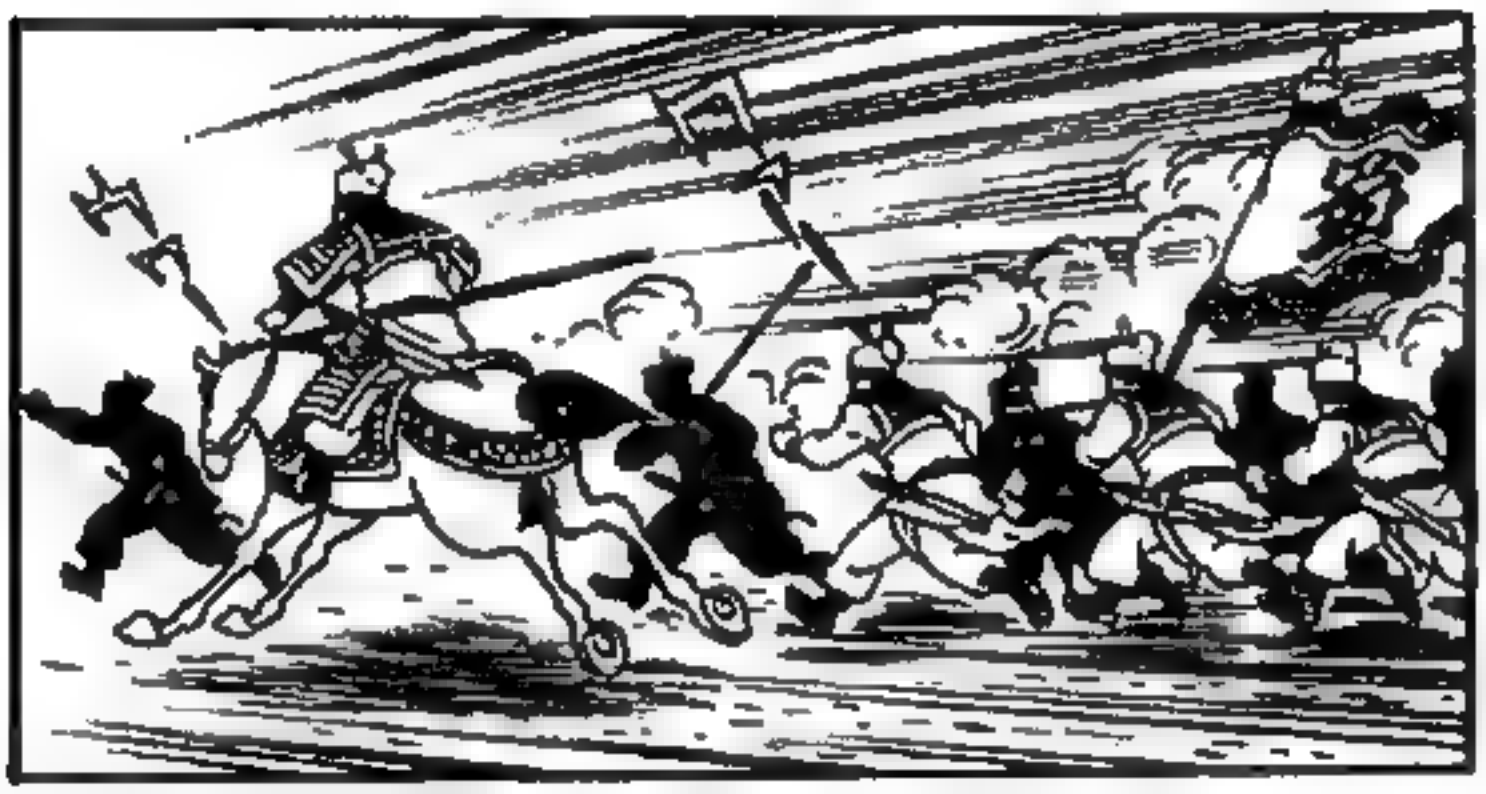

AGHH!







DAMN PESTS!



O-OH DEAR GOD!

WE'VE MANAGED TO CAPTURE ONE OF THEIR GENERALS ALREADY.

I'D SAY THAT'S ENOUGH, ZHANG FEI.

OHH!

NICE AMBUSH, LOSER!

HE'S PROBABLY AT FU RIVER PASS BY NOW.

SO WHERE'S KONGMING?

趙
HA! TO THINK, THOSE FOOLS SERIOUSLY TRIED TO TAKE ME CAPTIVE!

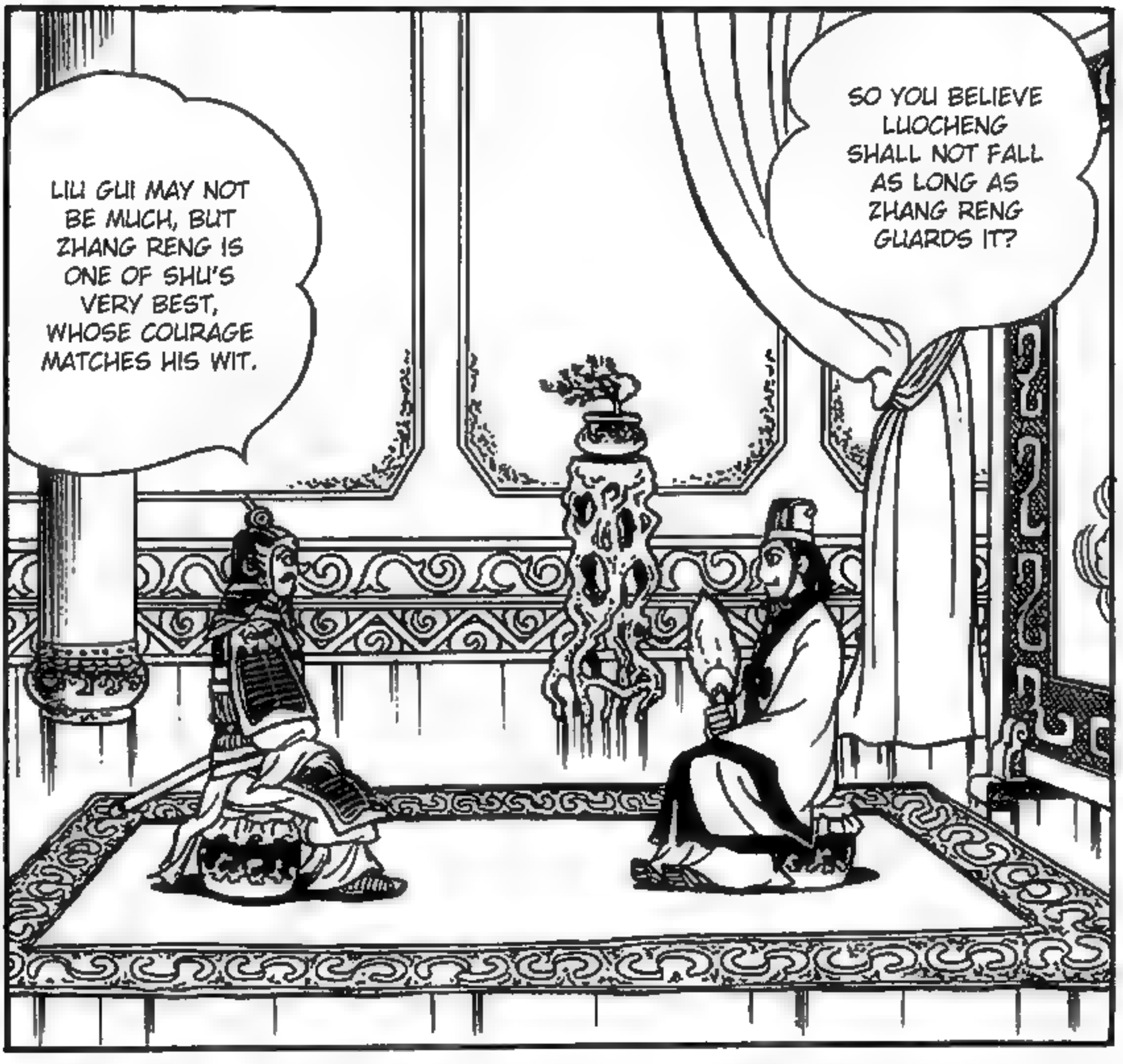
I GUESS WE SHOULD HEAD BACK THERE TOO THEN.
趙

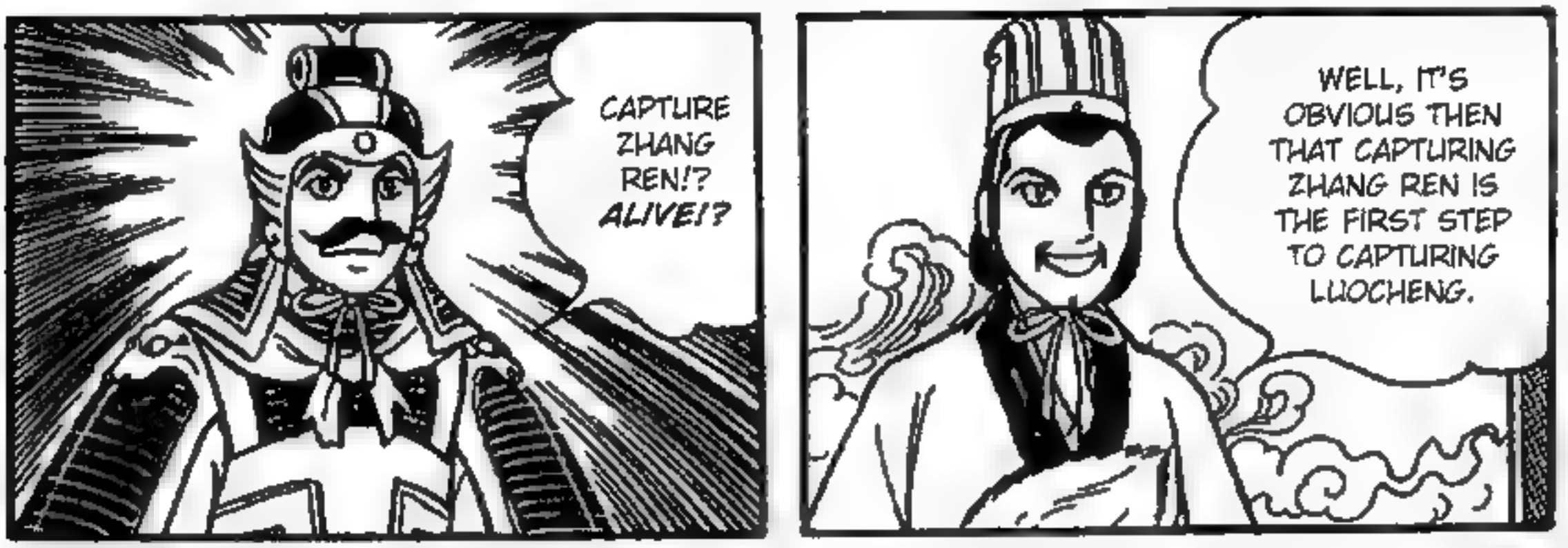
AFTER SOME PERSUASION,

WU YI, TOO, DECIDED TO SERVE LIU BEI.

YAN YAN, WU LAN, AND LEI TONG HAVE JUDGED MY CHARACTER TO BE SOUND AND HAVE DECIDED TO FAITHFULLY SERVE ME. WILL YOU NOT HONOUR ME BY DOING THE SAME?

# JINYAN BRIDGE


LIU GUI MAY NOT BE MUCH, BUT ZHANG RENG IS ONE OF SHU'S VERY BEST, WHOSE COURAGE MATCHES HIS WIT.
SO YOU BELIEVE LUOCHENG SHALL NOT FALL AS LONG AS ZHANG RENG GUARDS IT?




"LUOCHENG" ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR THE FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT AT "LUO." THE "-CHENG" SUFFIX MERELY MEANS "CASTLE/CITY." MY APOLOGIES FOR NOT MENTIONING THIS SOONER

IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.

PLEASE GUIDE ME AROUND THE LOCAL TERRAIN TOMORROW, WU YI.

I CAN'T TELL IF THIS MAN IS INSANE OR JUST LIKES TO BOAST...

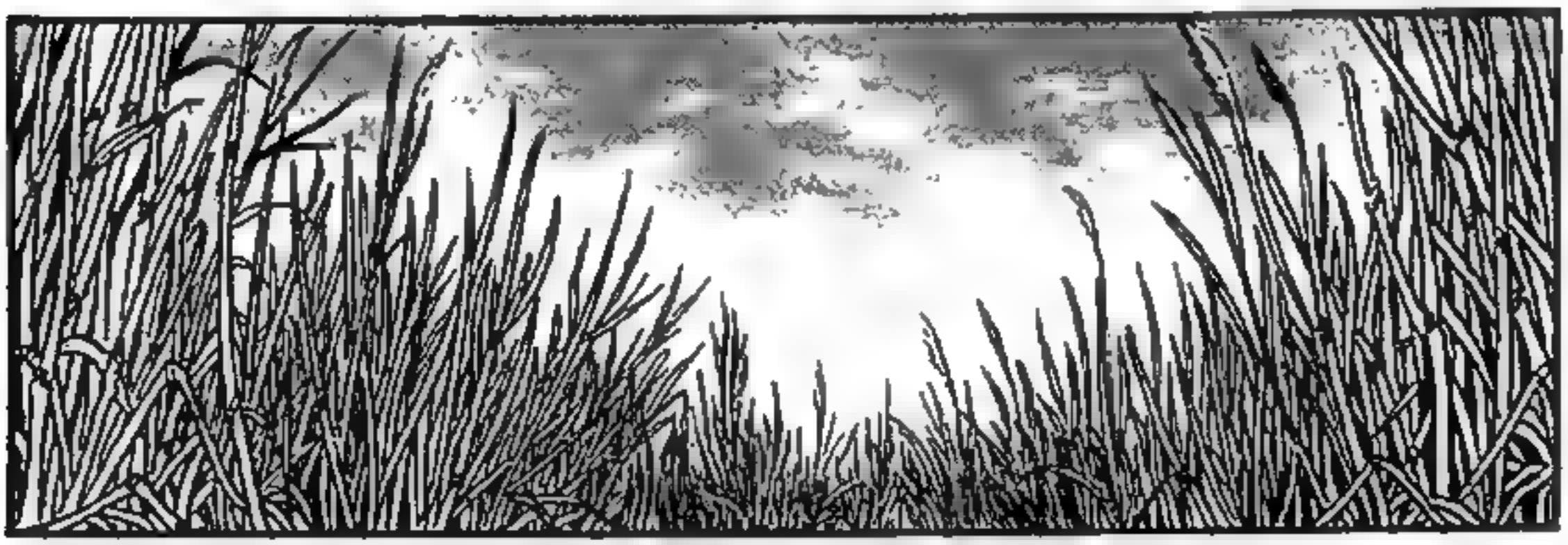
PERHAPS BOTH...?

THIS IS THE JINYAN BRIDGE, SIR.

WHAT IS THIS BRIDGE?

*JINYAN BRIDGE: LITERALLY MEANING, "GOLDEN GOOSE BRIDGE"

HM...



QUITE SUITABLE FOR HIDING TROOPS...

.....

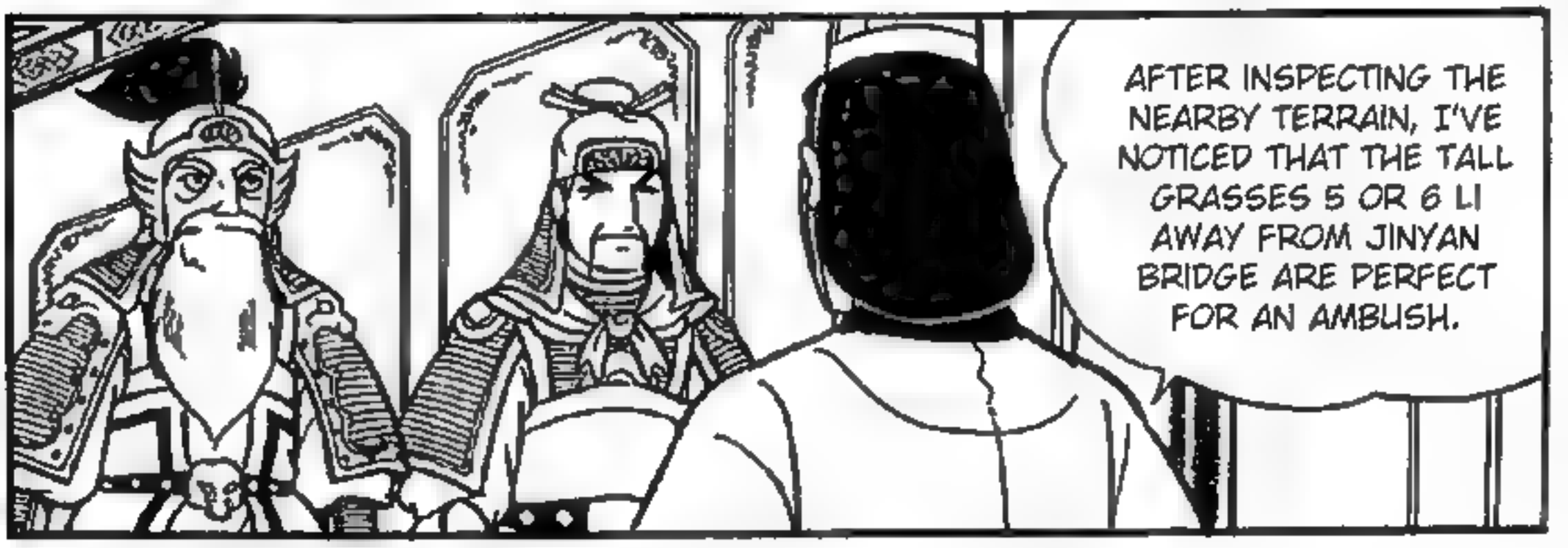
I HOPE MY GUIDE WAS OF SOME HELP.

THAT'S ENOUGH LOOKING AROUND.

YES, I CAN CAPTURE ZHANG REN WITHOUT FAIL NOW.

劉
劉

YES.
YOU CALLED, SIR?


AFTER INSPECTING THE NEARBY TERRAIN, I'VE NOTICED THAT THE TALL GRASSES 5 OR 6 LI AWAY FROM JINYAN BRIDGE ARE PERFECT FOR AN AMBUSH.

YES, SIR.

HUANG ZHONG, HIDE 1000 MEN EQUIPPED WITH HALBERDS ON THE RIGHT-SIDE. YOUR JOB IS TO CUT OFF THE LEGS OF ENEMY SOLDIERS AND HORSES IF THEY RESIST.

YES, SIR.

WEI YAN, YOUR TASK IS TO HIDE 1000 SPEARMEN ON THE LEFT-SIDE. WHEN THE ENEMY COMES, DISMOUNT THEIR CAVALRY WITH YOUR SPEARS.

COME CLOSER.

WHAT'S MY JOB THIS TIME, COMMANDER?

I'VE TOLD HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN TO AMBUSH THE ENEMY BY THE JINYAN BRIDGE. ONCE THAT HAPPENS, ZHANG REN WILL FLEE EAST TO THE ROAD IN THE HILLS.

YES, SIR.

WAIT THERE WITH 1000 SOLDIERS AND CAPTURE ZHANG REN ONCE HE SHOWS UP.

ONCE ZHANG REN HAS CROSSED, DESTROY THE BRIDGE AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

AS FOR YOU, ZHAO ZILONG, WAIT NORTH OF THE BRIDGE UNTIL I'VE SUCCESSFULLY LURED ZHANG REN ACROSS.

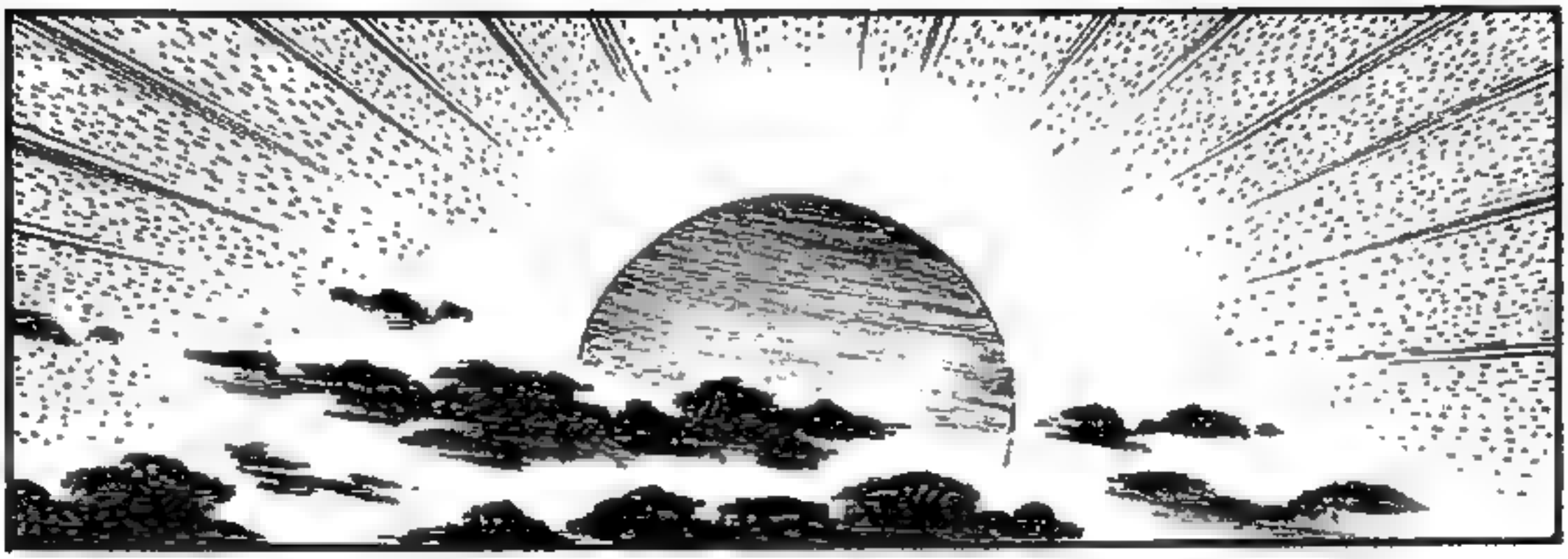
YES, SIR.

THAT WILL ENSURE ZHANG REN HEADS RIGHT FOR ZHANG FEI'S TROOPS AND NOT SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YES, SIR!

YES, SIR!

IF ALL IS CLEAR, LET US GO CARRY OUT OUR TASKS WITHOUT A HITCH.



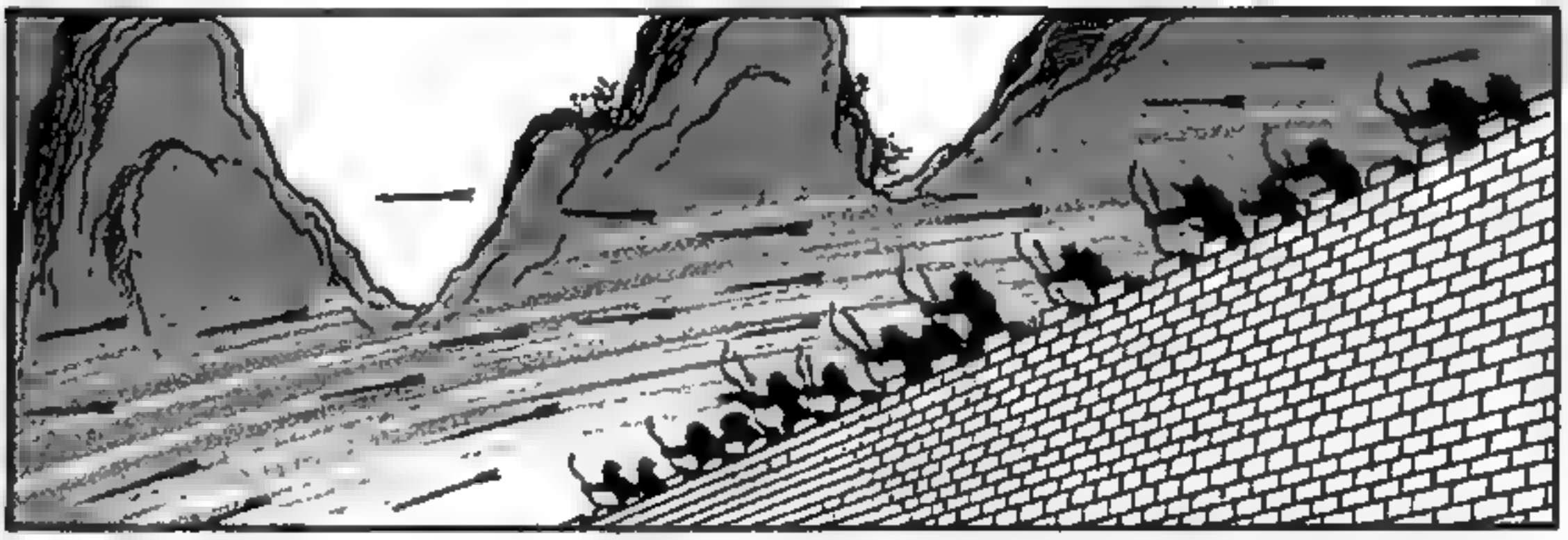
HUH?

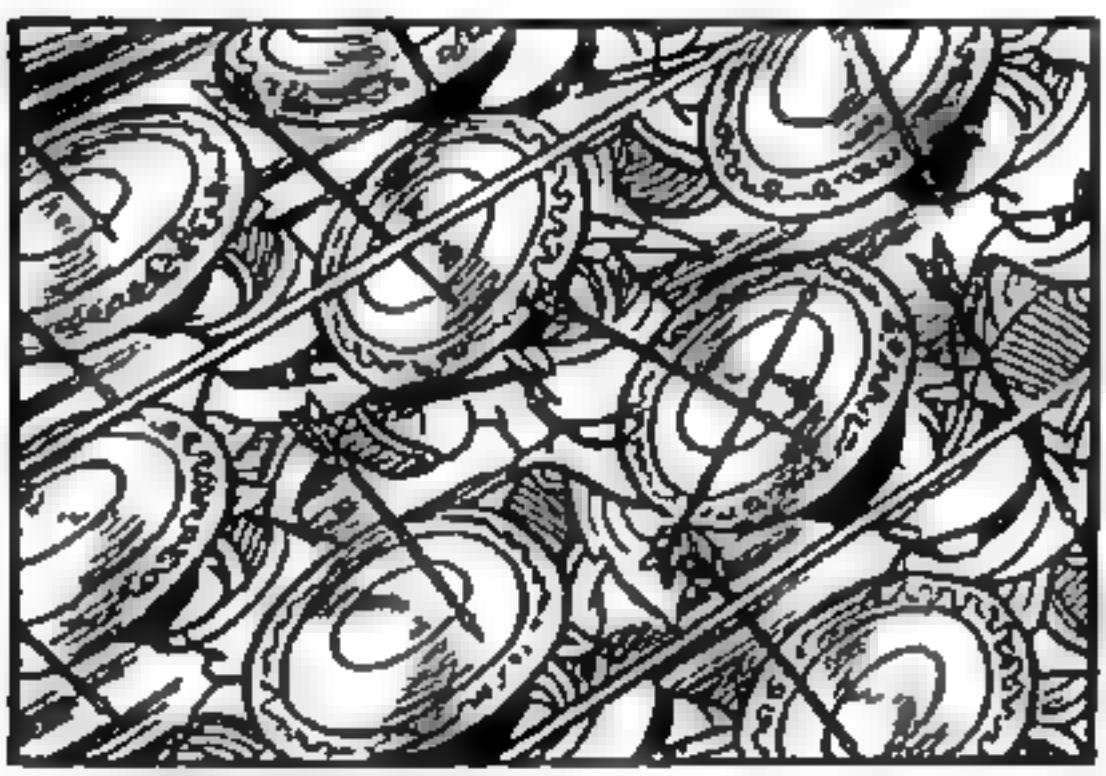
ビューン
ビューン
ビューン

WHA?

MAN THE DEFENSES!

ENEMY ATTACK!





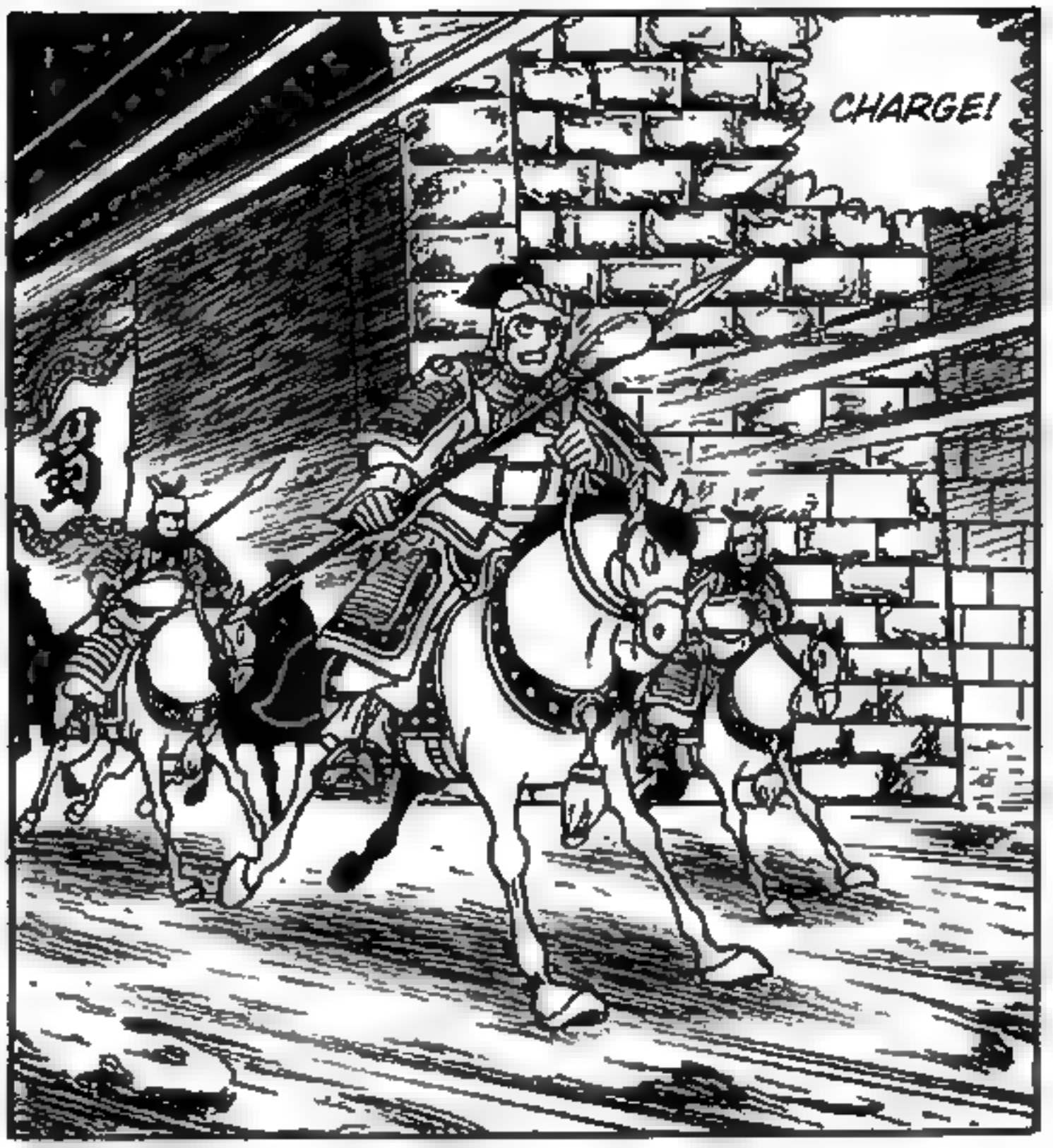
NO, SIR.

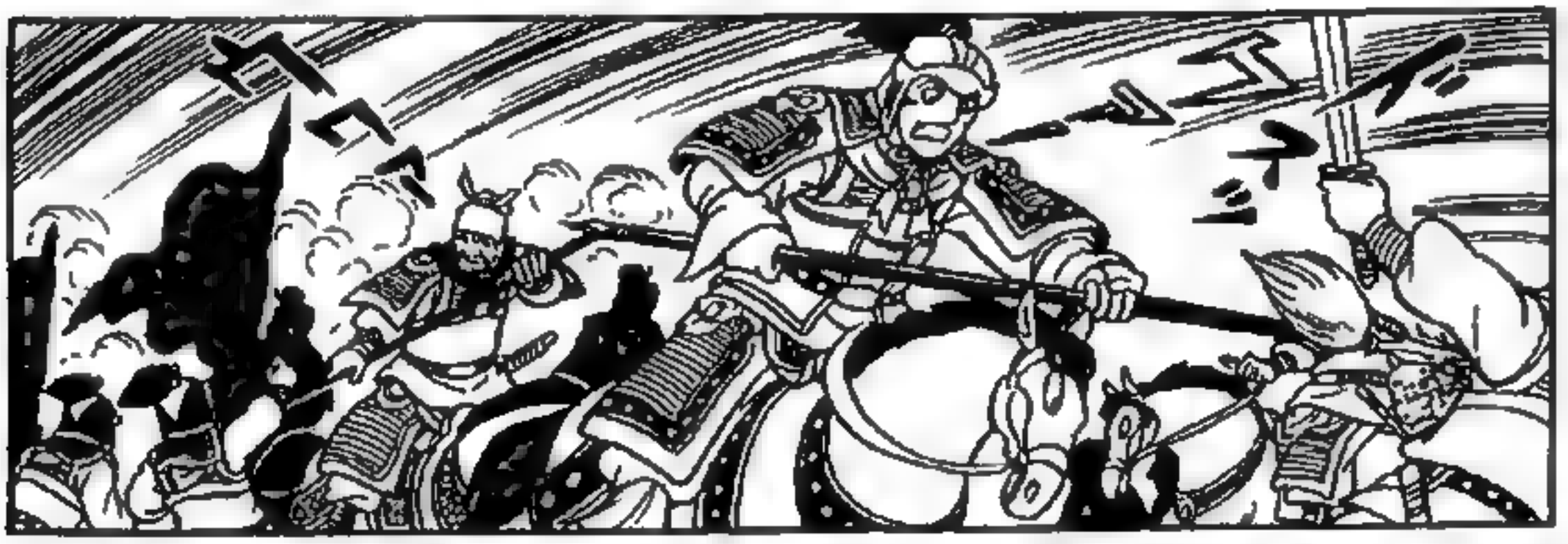
DO YOU SEE ANY MORE ENEMY TROOPS COMING?

DO THEY REALLY THINK THEY CAN CAPTURE LUO WITH SUCH A PALTRY FORCE?

GOOD, THEN I CAN CHASE THE ENEMIES AWAY.

OPEN THE GATES. WE SHALL SALLY OUT TO CRUSH THE ENEMIES.


CHARGE!



HM?

FILTHY WORMS, I'LL CRUSH YOU ALL!

WHO ARE YOU!?

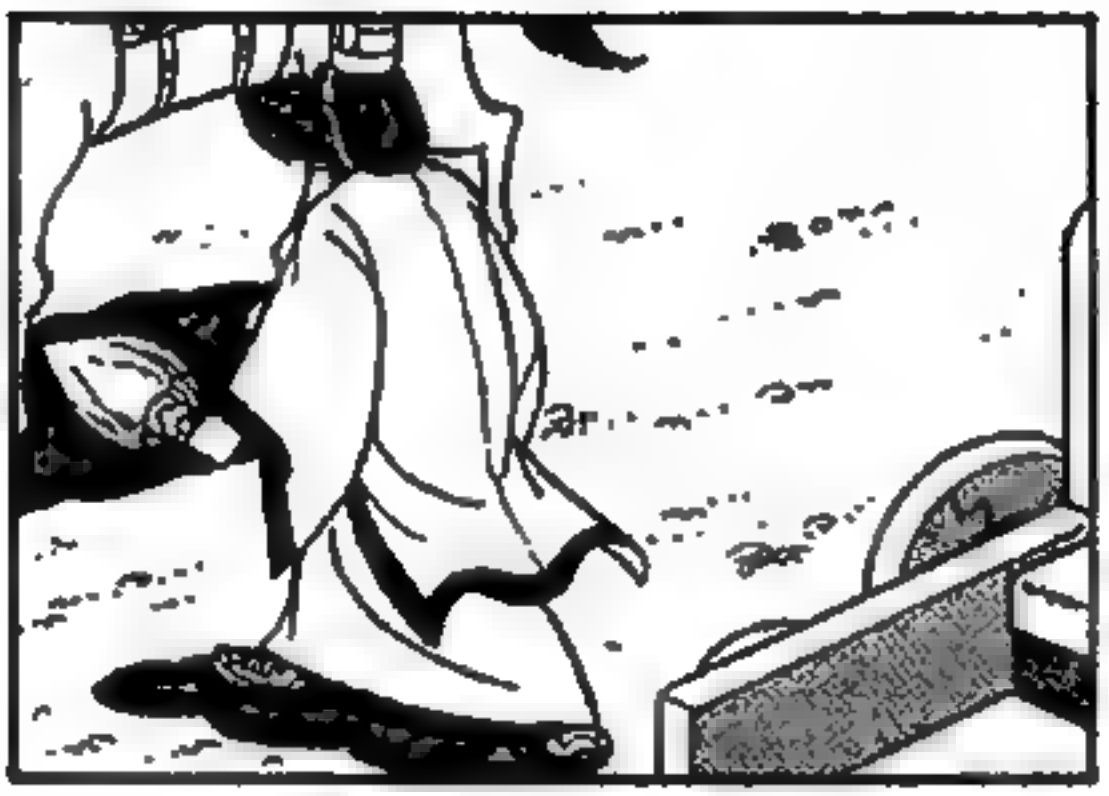
EVEN CAO CAO'S MILLION-MAN ARMY FLED AFTER HEARING MY NAME. WHY DO YOU THEN PUT UP SUCH STAUNCH RESISTANCE?

Z-ZHUGE LIANG KONG-MING!?

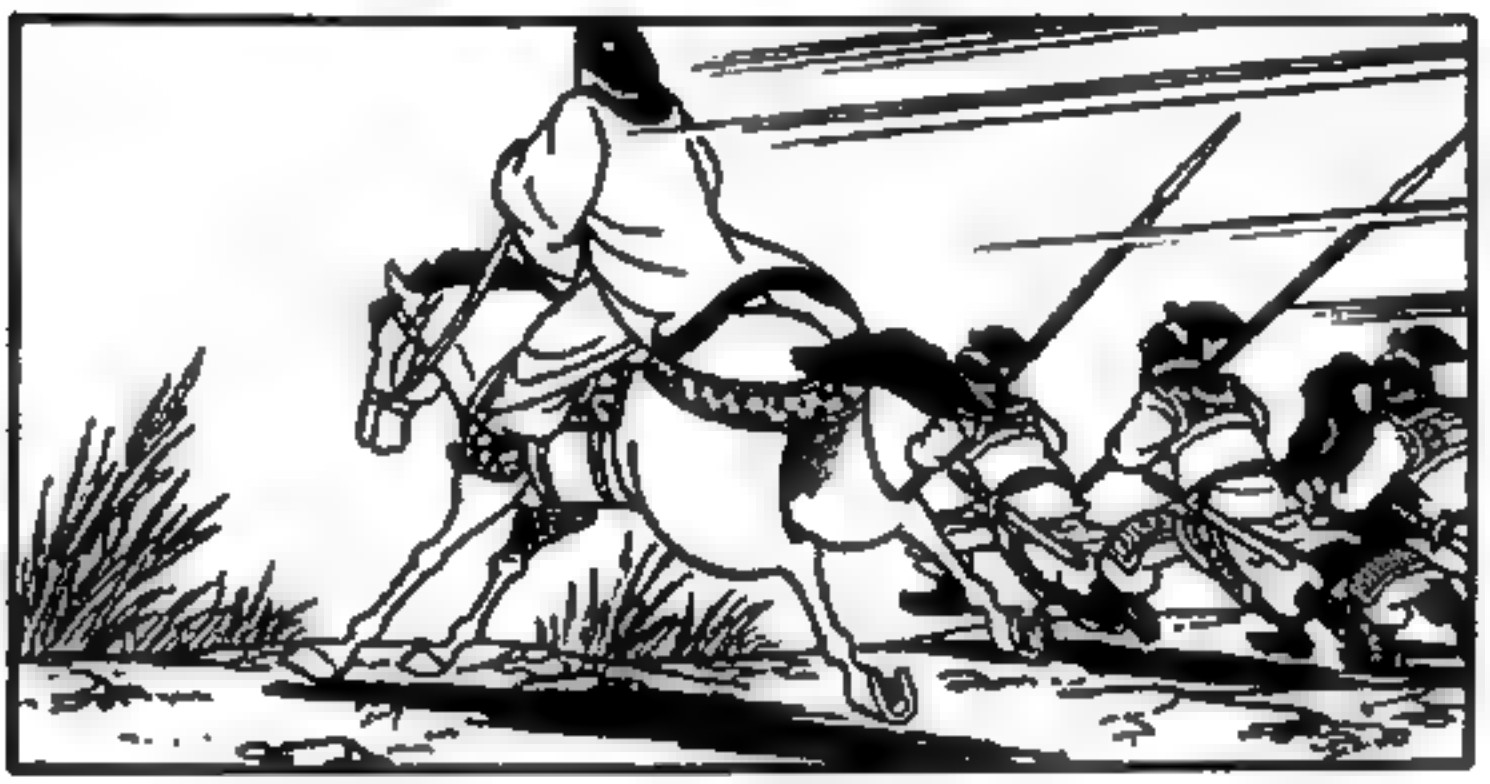
WHY, NONE OTHER THAN ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING, OF COURSE.

LET US PUT THIS BRAGGART IN HIS PLACE!

THAT CAN'T BE! I HEAR ZHUGE LIANG IS AN UNPARALLELED GENIUS IN THE ART OF WAR. YOU CALL YOURSELF ZHUGE LIANG WHILE PUTTING FORTH THIS SAD EXCUSE FOR AN OFFENSIVE?



FINE.
C-COMMANDER! YOU MUST RETREAT AT ONCE!



DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE! HEAVEN HAS GIVEN US A CHANCE TO CAPTURE ZHUGE LIANG!

CHAARGE!

HUH!?

ATTAAAACK!

CLANG! CLANG!

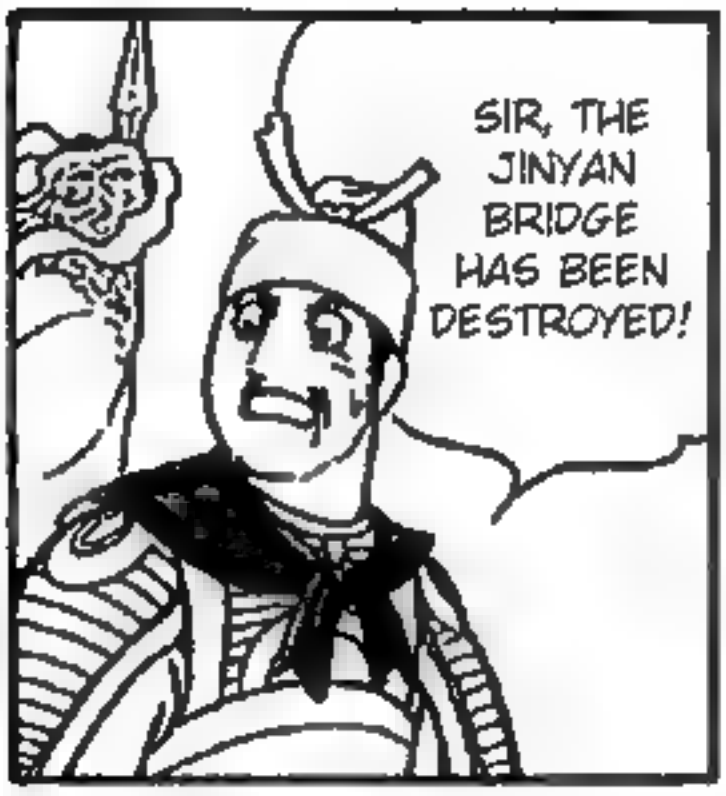
LIU BEI FROM THE LEFT,

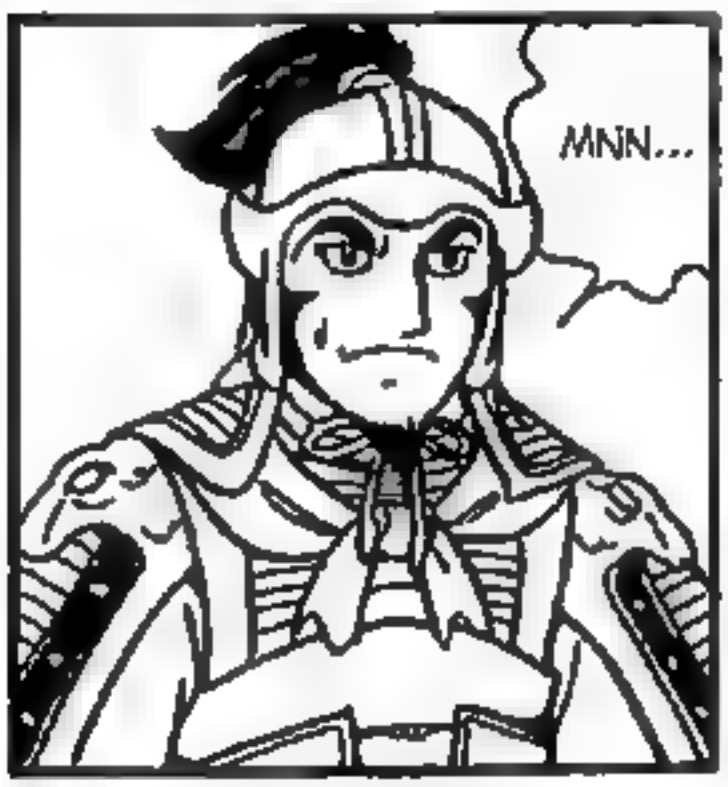
AND YAN YAN FROM THE RIGHT STORMED ZHANG REN AS SOON AS HI CROSSED THE BRIDGE

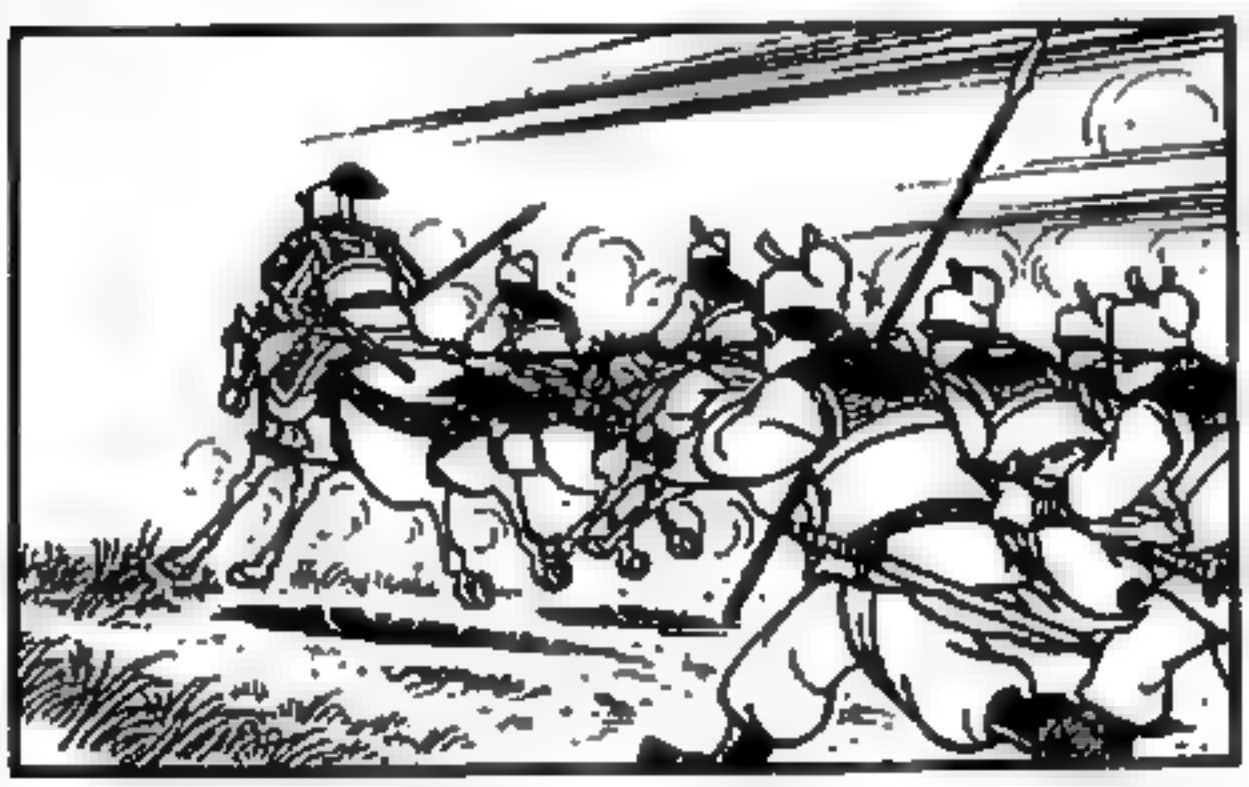
RETREAT! IT'S AN ENEMY AMBUSH!

THEY WERE WAITING FOR US!

AHH!


SIR, THE JINYAN BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESTROYED!

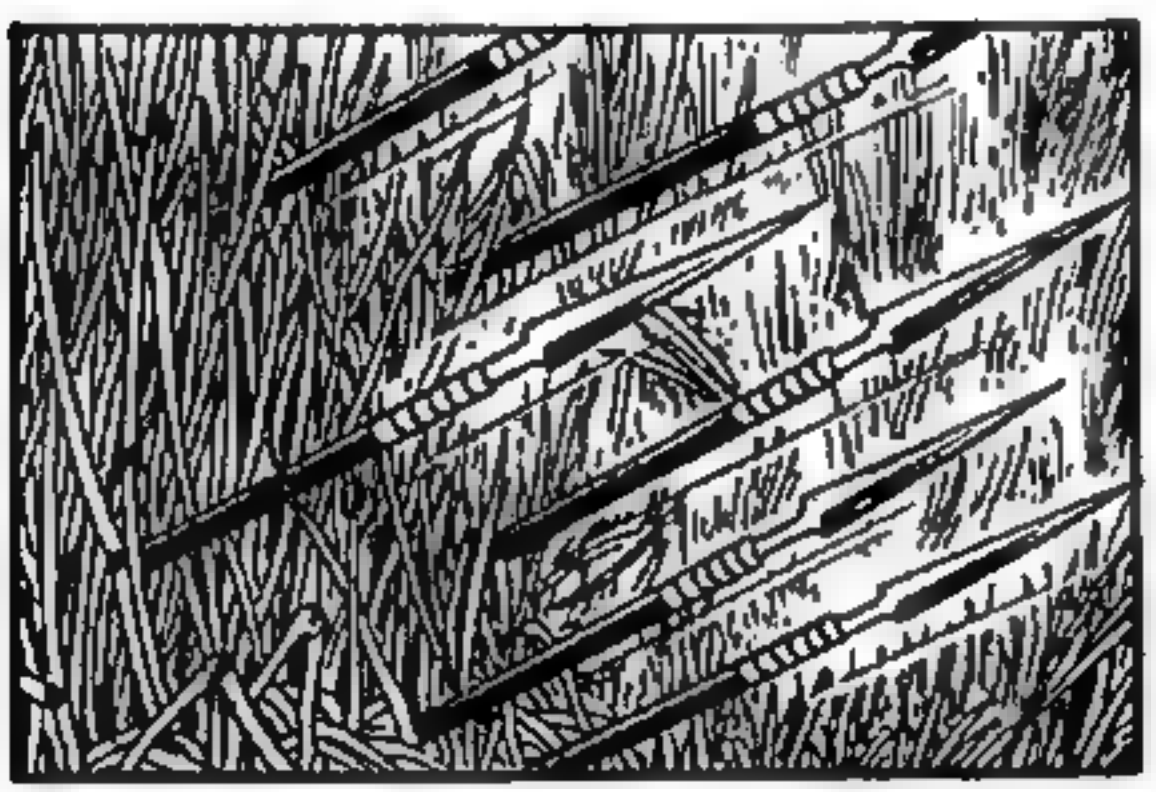

MNN...

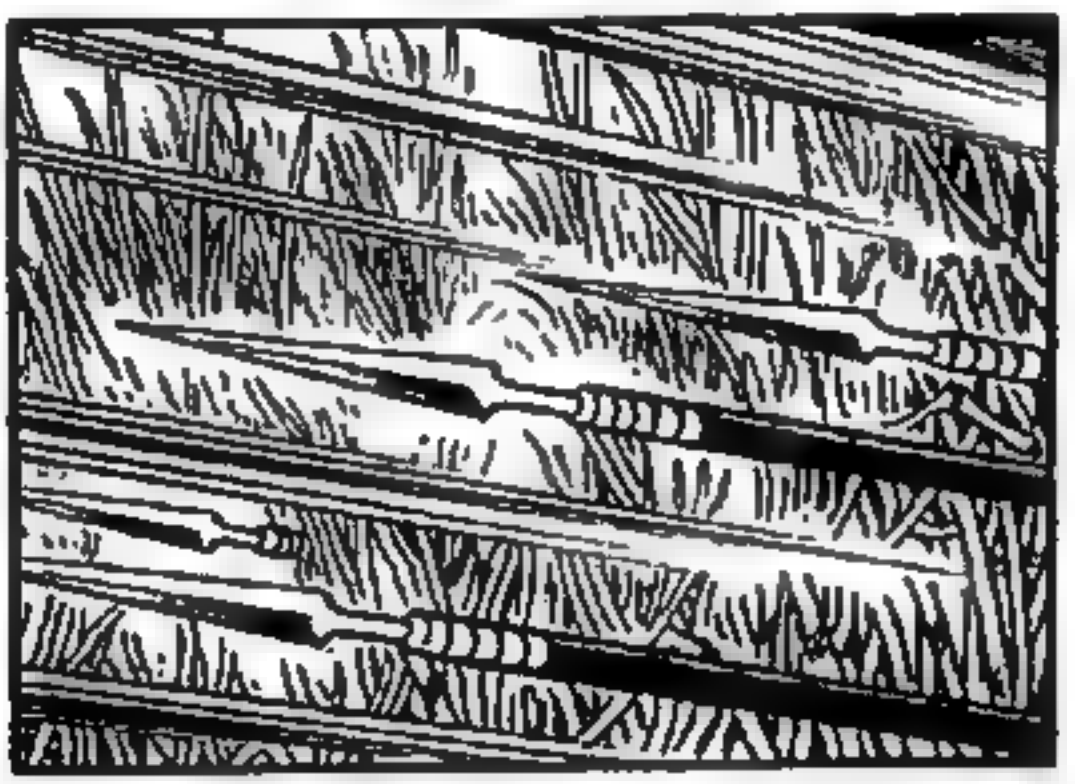


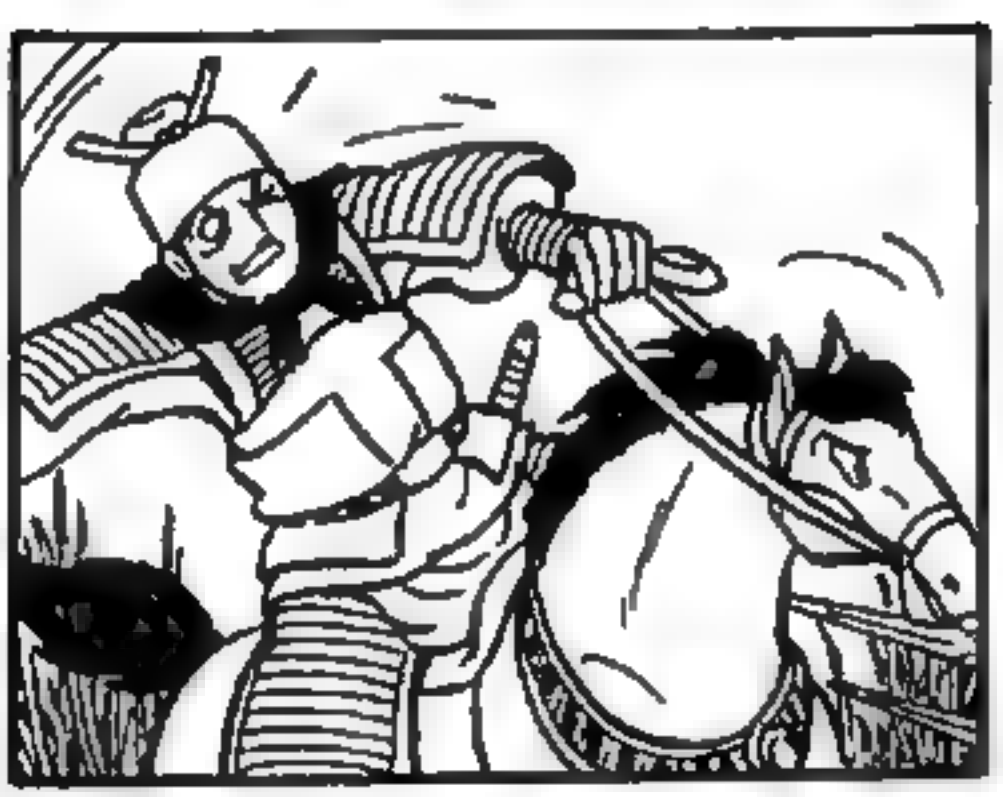
LET US RETREAT BY FOLLOWING SOUTH ALONG THE RIVER!

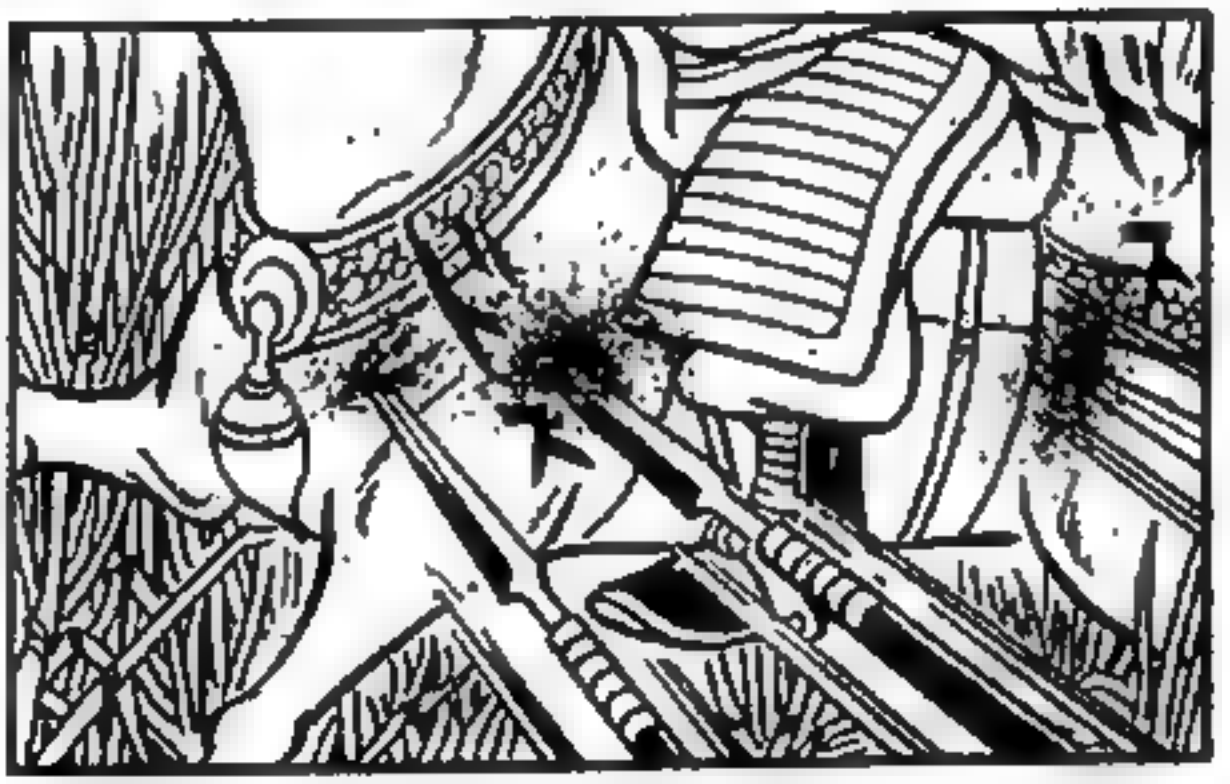
NOW!

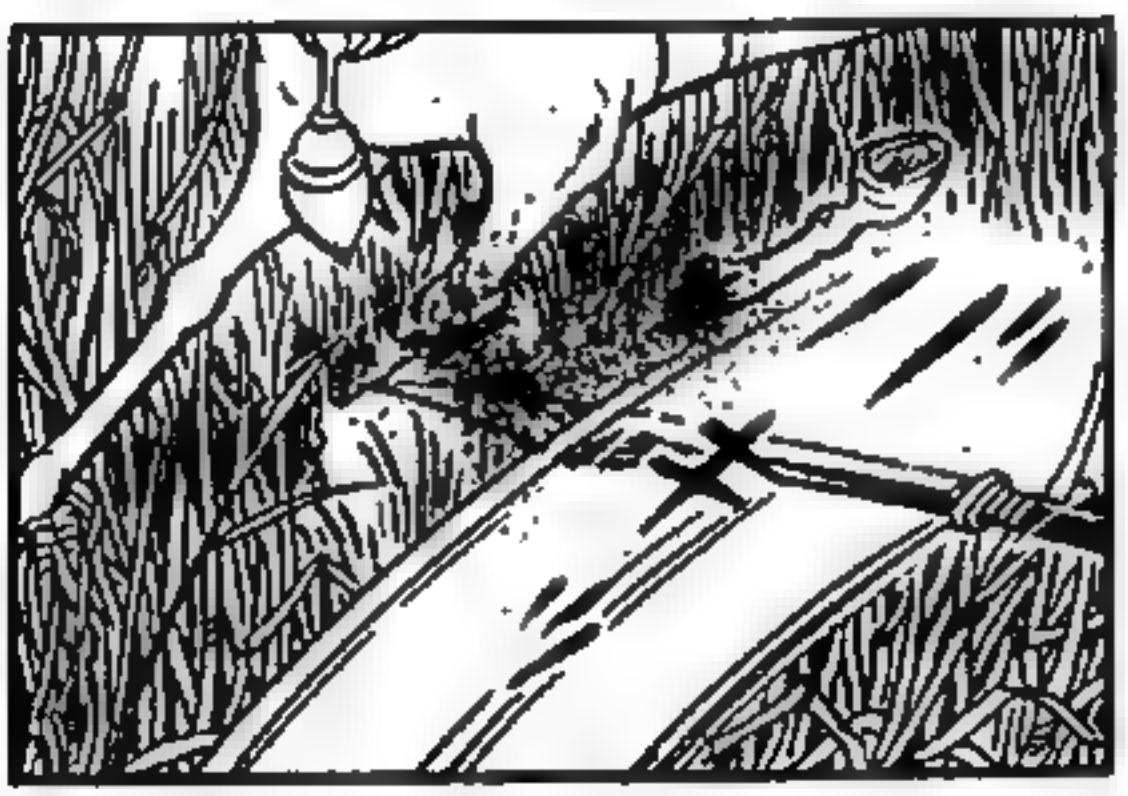
AND SO THEY COME...

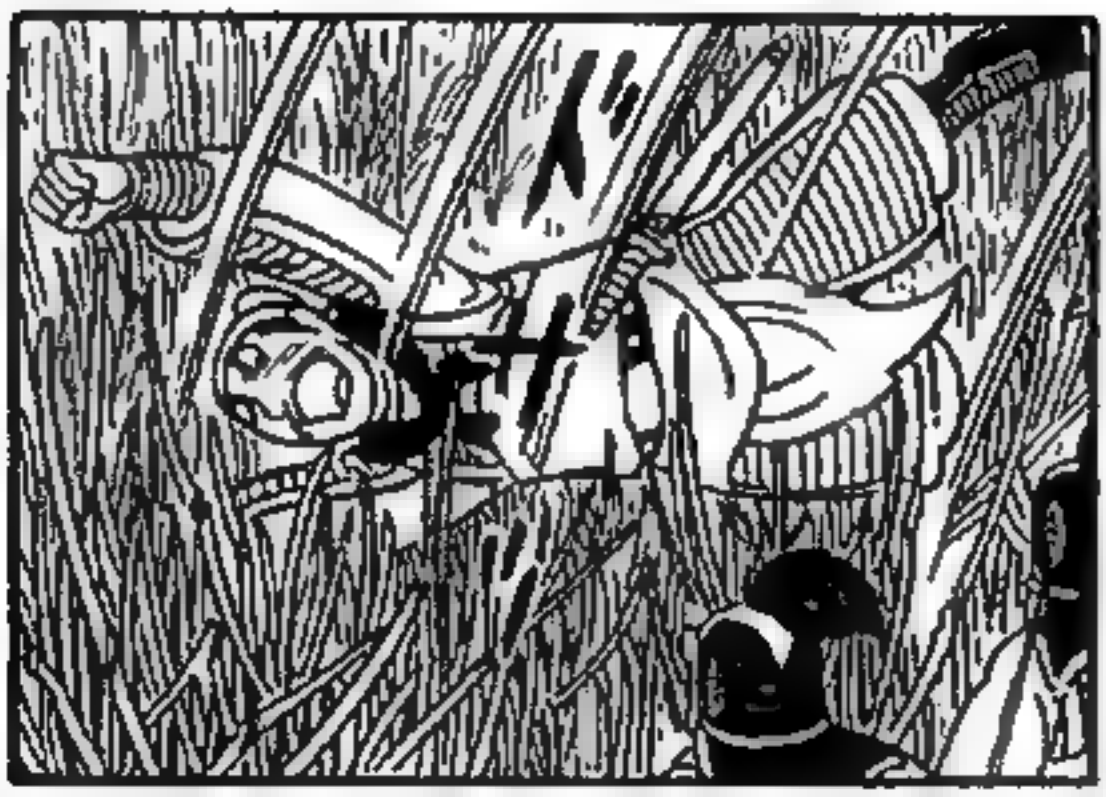












W-WE BETTER LAY DOWN OUR ARMS AND SURRENDER BEFORE WE LOSE BOTH OUR LEGS...

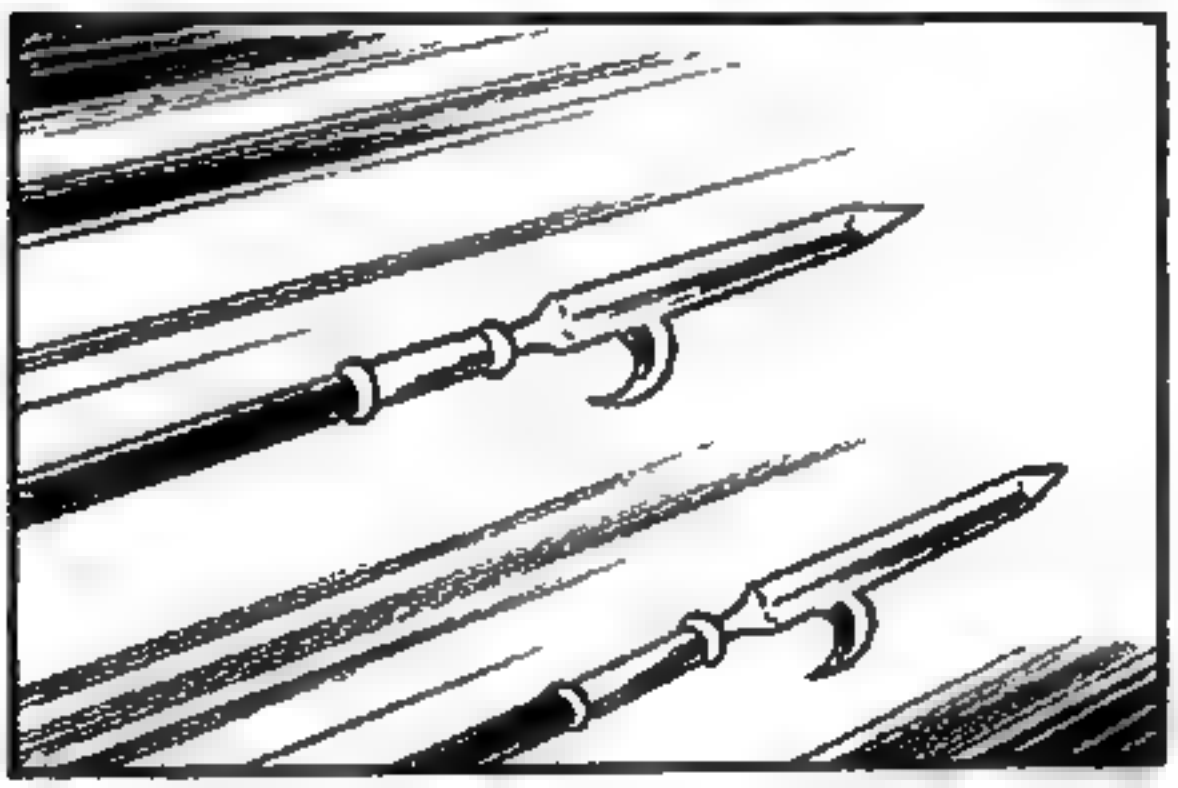
AGHH!

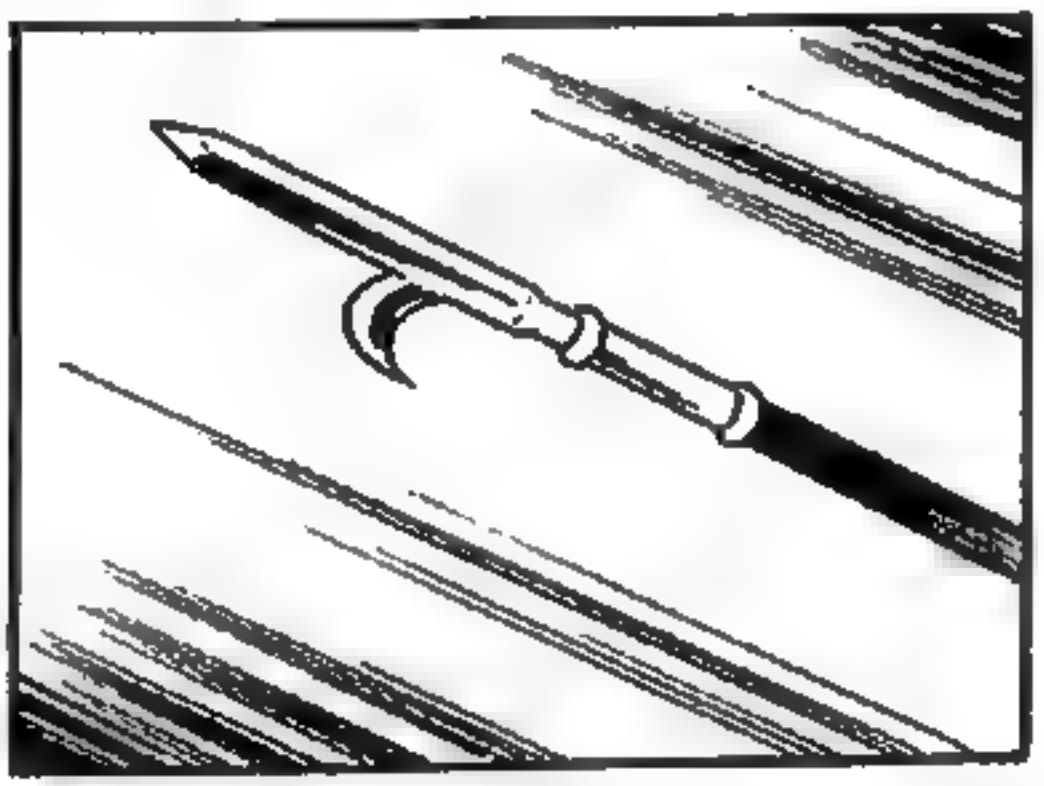
ATTACK!

I DON'T KNOW HOW KONGMING DOES IT.

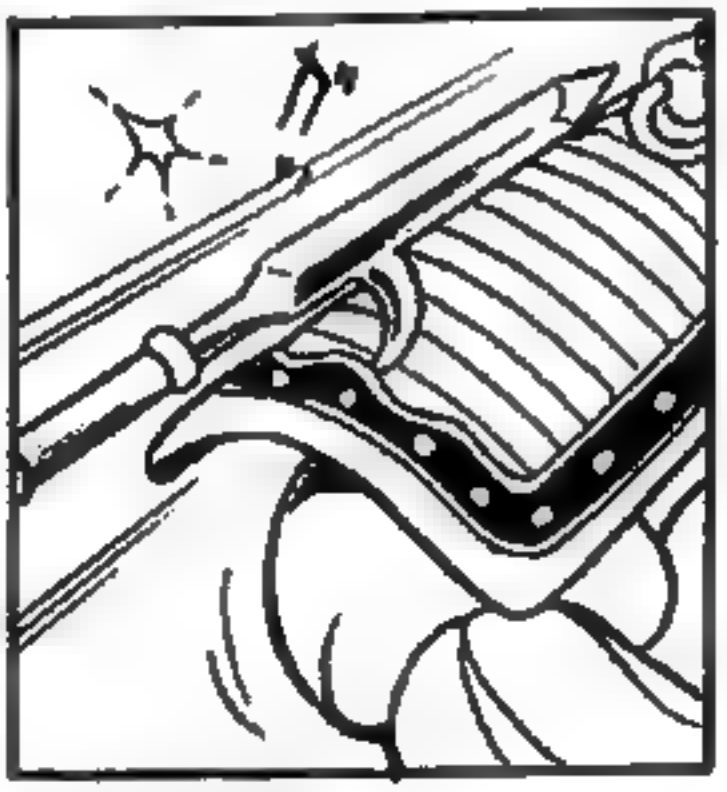
ENEMIES COMING THIS WAY, GENERAL.

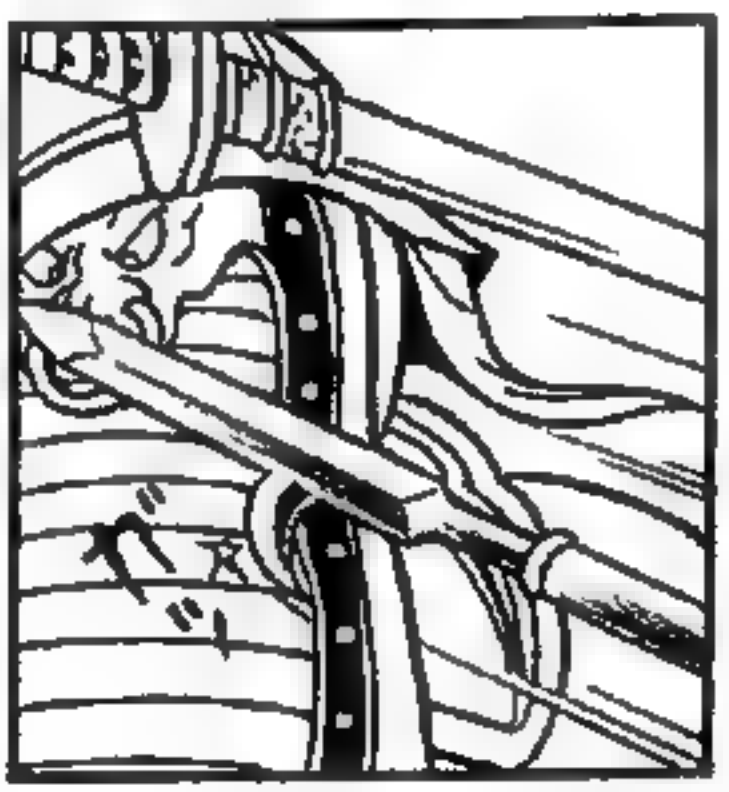
A THIRD AMBUSH HERE OF ALL PLACES!?

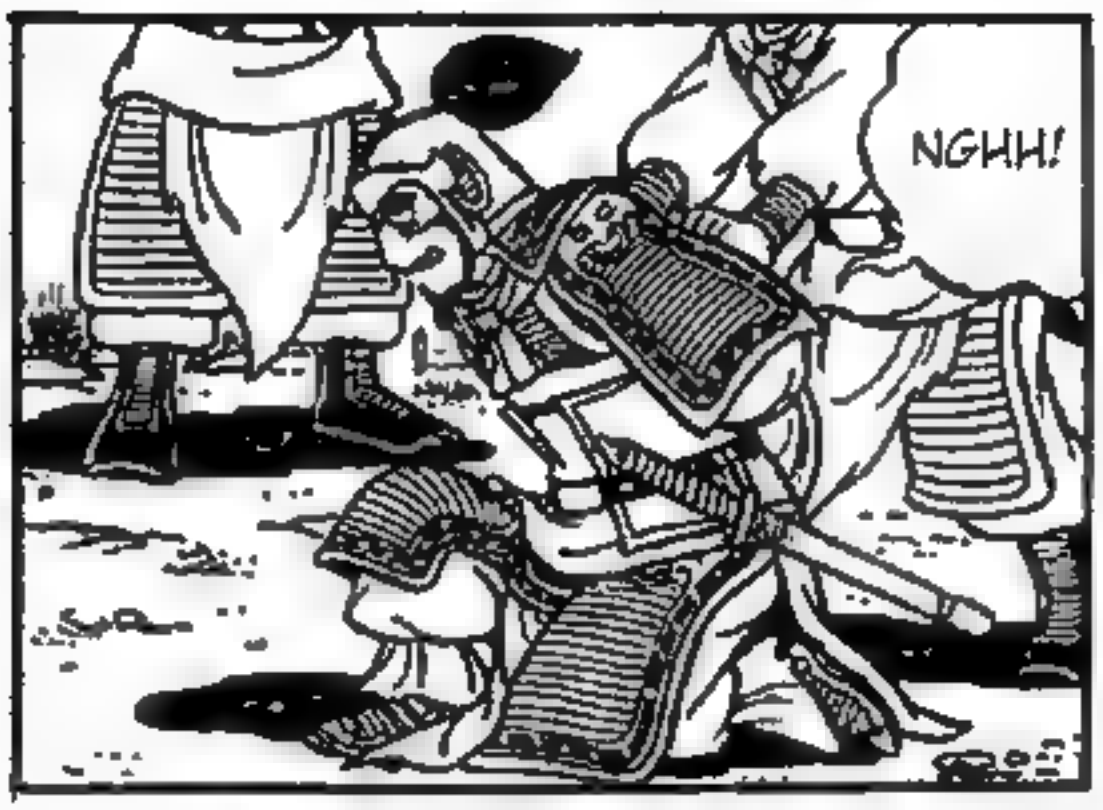




CURSES!






NGHH!

TIE HIM UP REAL GOOD.

SURE, WHATEVER YOU SAY. COME THEN, KONGMING IS WAITING.

LIIOCHENG WILL NEVER FALL!
LIIOCHENG'S GOOD AS OURS NOW.

A PROPER RETAINER CANNOT SERVE TWO LORDS!
MANY OF YOUR FORMER COMRADES HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO SERVE ME. WILL YOU NOT DO THE SAME?
ENOUGH MINCING WORDS! I HAVE NO INTENT ON BREAKING THE SACRED BOND BETWEEN MY LORD AND I. CUT OFF MY HEAD AND BE DONE WITH IT!
OF COURSE, BUT HEAVEN ASCRIBES A ROLE FOR EACH OF US. PLEASE THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT YOUR OWN FATED PURPOSE IN LIFE.

LIU BEI TRIED HIS UTMOST TO PERSUADE ZHANG REN, BUT ZHANG REN REMAINED INTRACTABLE

THEN AM I TO EXECUTE HIM...?

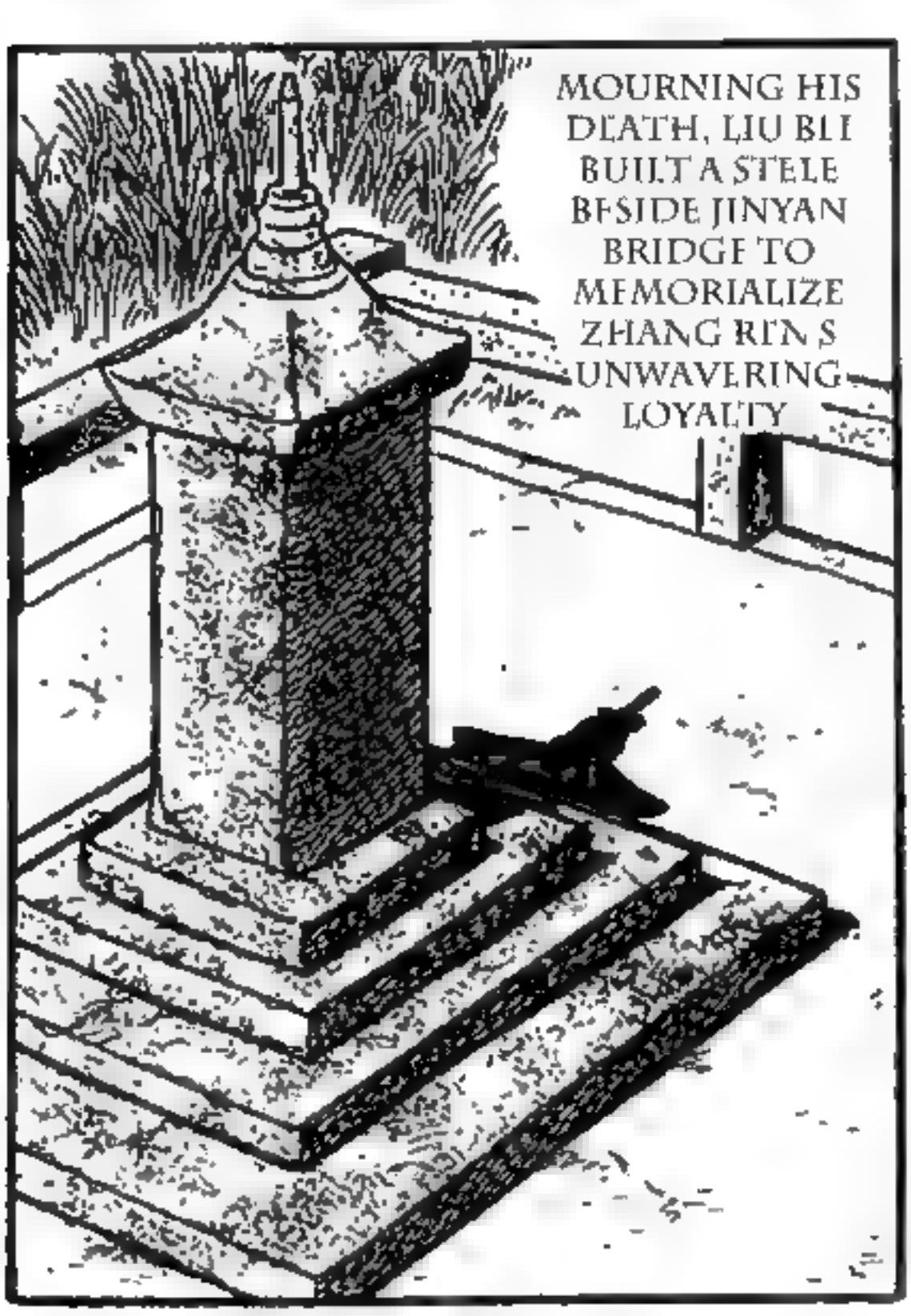
MY LORD, SUCH PERSISTENT PERSUASION IS DISRESPECTFUL TO A FAITHFUL SERVANT.

I SEE...

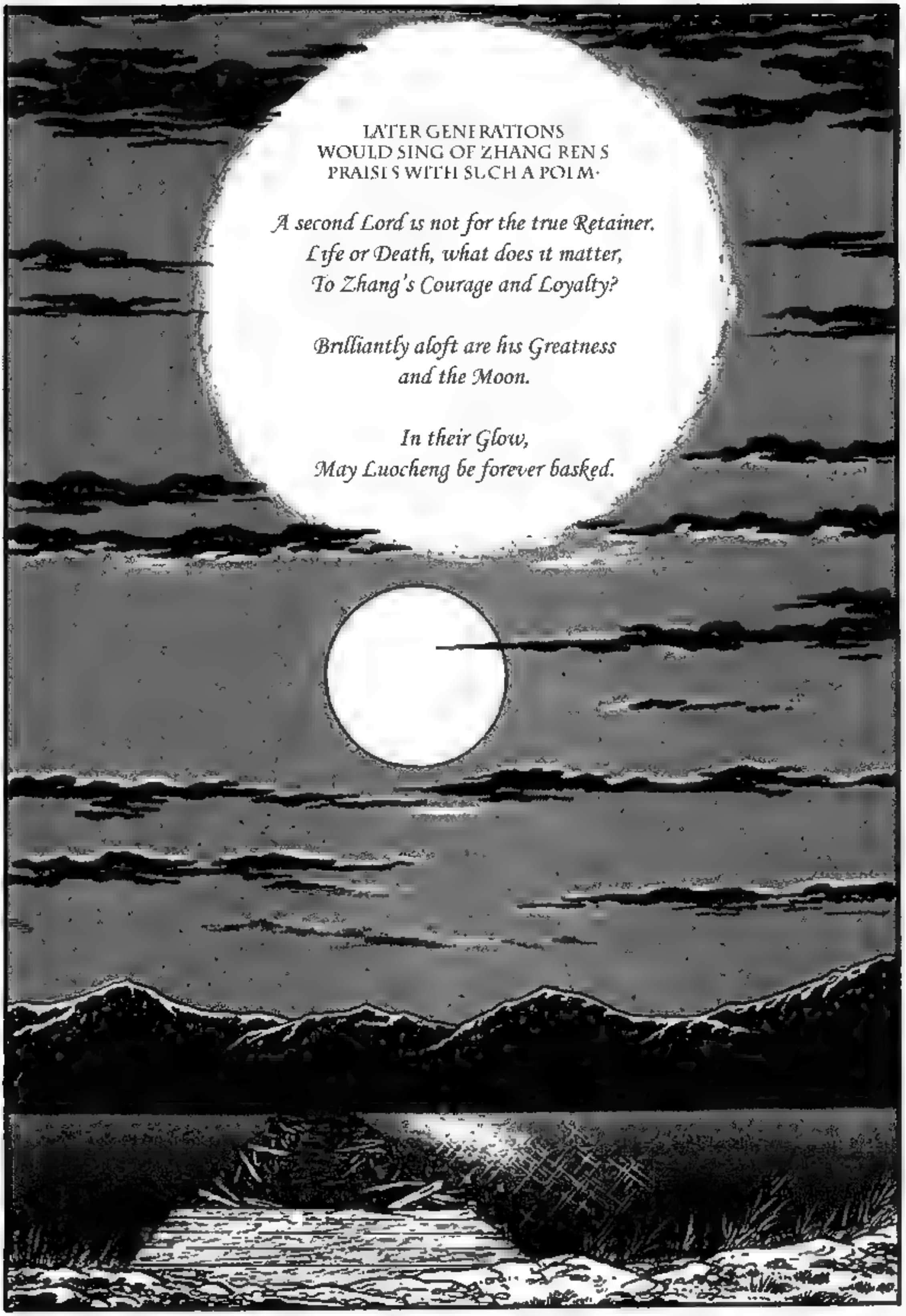
TO DO ANY LESS IS TO BESMIRCH HIS HONOUR.

THIS WAY.

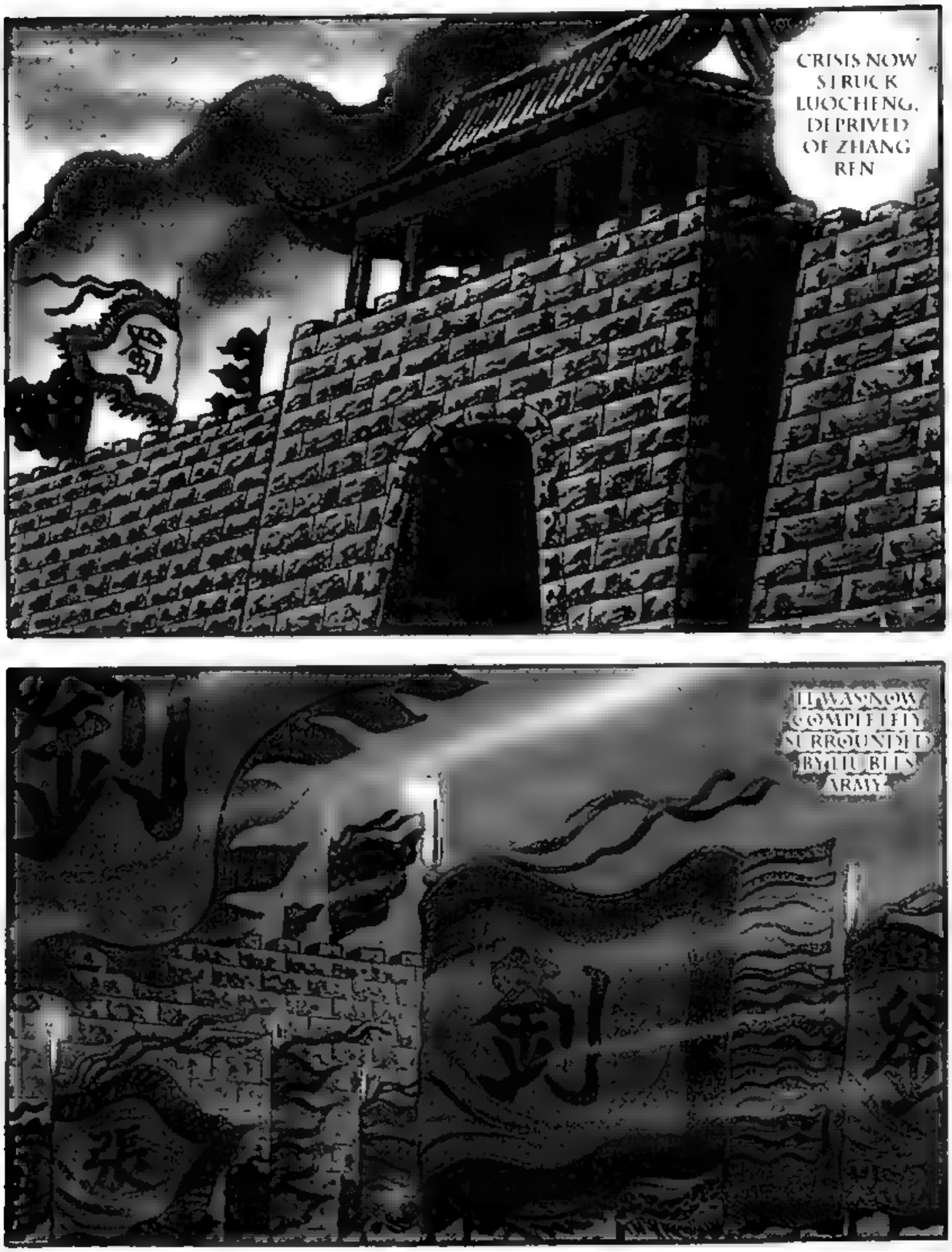
I SHALL DO AS YOU REQUEST, ZHANG REN.


MOURNING HIS DEATH, LIU BEI BUILT A STELE BESIDE JINYAN BRIDGE TO MEMORIALIZE ZHANG REN'S UNWAVERING LOYALTY

ZHANG REN WAS THUS PROMPTLY BEHEADED.


LATER GENERATIONS
WOULD SING OF ZHANG REN'S
PRAISES WITH SUCH A POEM:
A second Lord is not for the true Retainer.
Life or Death, what does it matter,
To Zhang's Courage and Loyalty?
Brilliantly aloft are his Greatness
and the Moon.
In their Glow,
May Luocheng be forever basked.

# LUOCHENG FALLS



LISTEN TO ME, MEN OF SHU! I AM WU YI, YOUR FORMER GENERAL!

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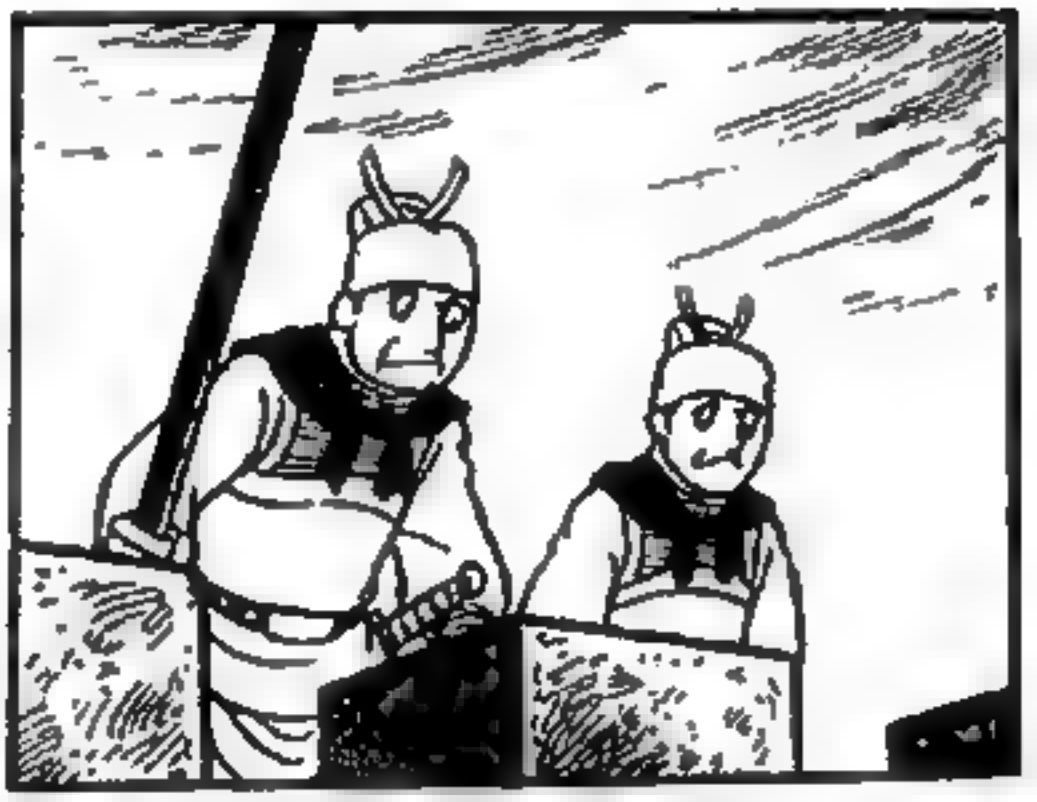


MAN, WE'RE DOOMED...
T-THEY'VE ALL DEFECTED?

AND SO IS GENERAL YAN YAN!
LOOK, GENERALS WU LAN AND LEI TONG ARE HERE TOO.

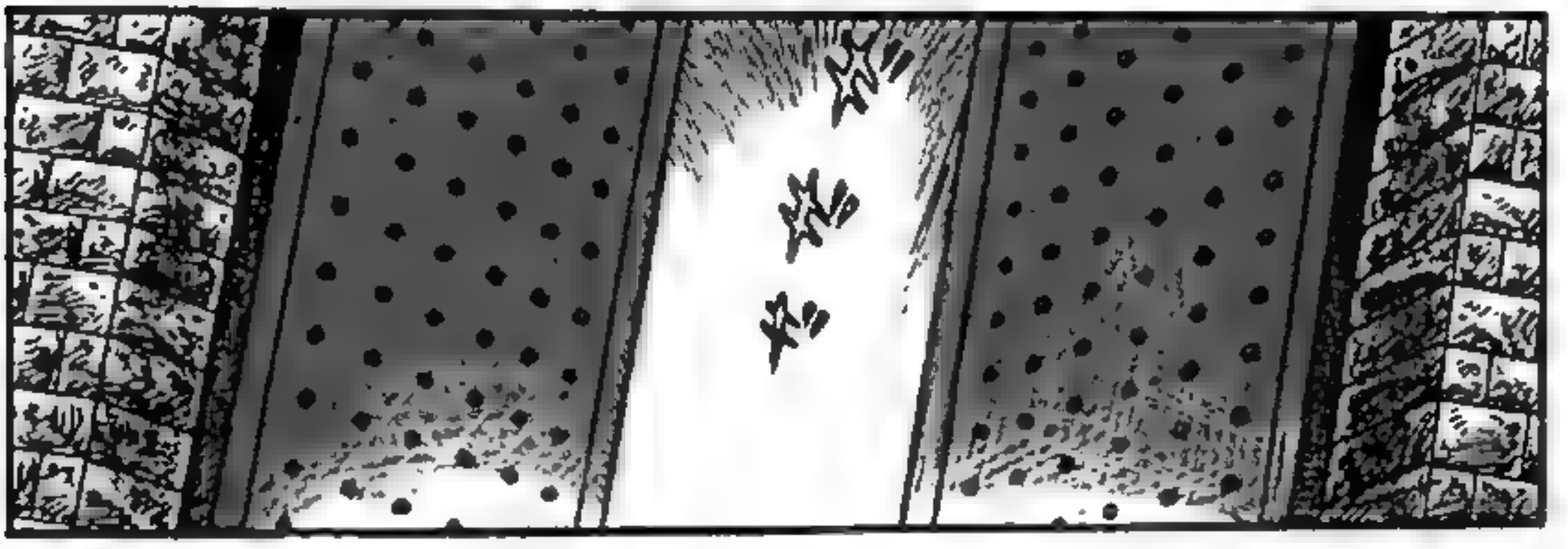
SILENCE! HOW DARE YOU COWARDS BETRAY YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN!

DEFENDING LUOCHENG IS A FUTILE ENDEAVOUR THAT WILL ONLY CAUSE FURTHER SUFFERING ON YOUR SIDE! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU SOLDIERS CAN ACCOMPLISH WHEN YOUR GENERALS HAVE ALREADY SURRENDERED?

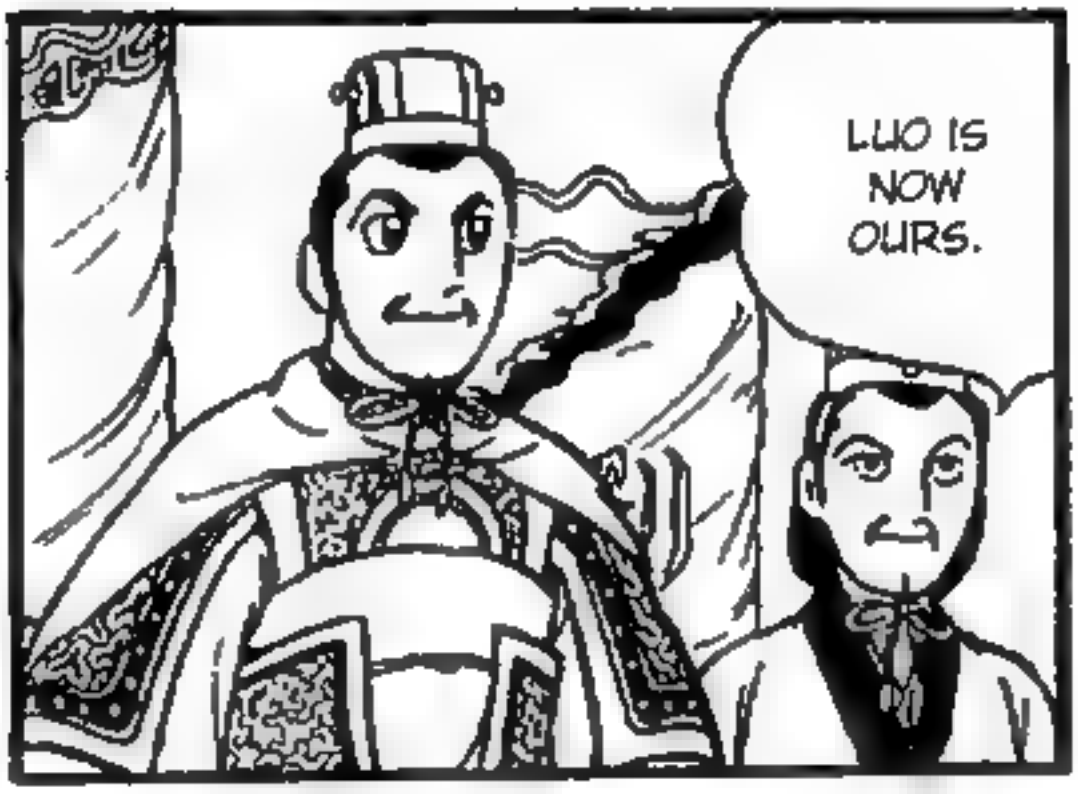
COME ATTACK IF YOU WISH! WE WILL FIGHT TO THE VERY LAST MAN!

N-NO...

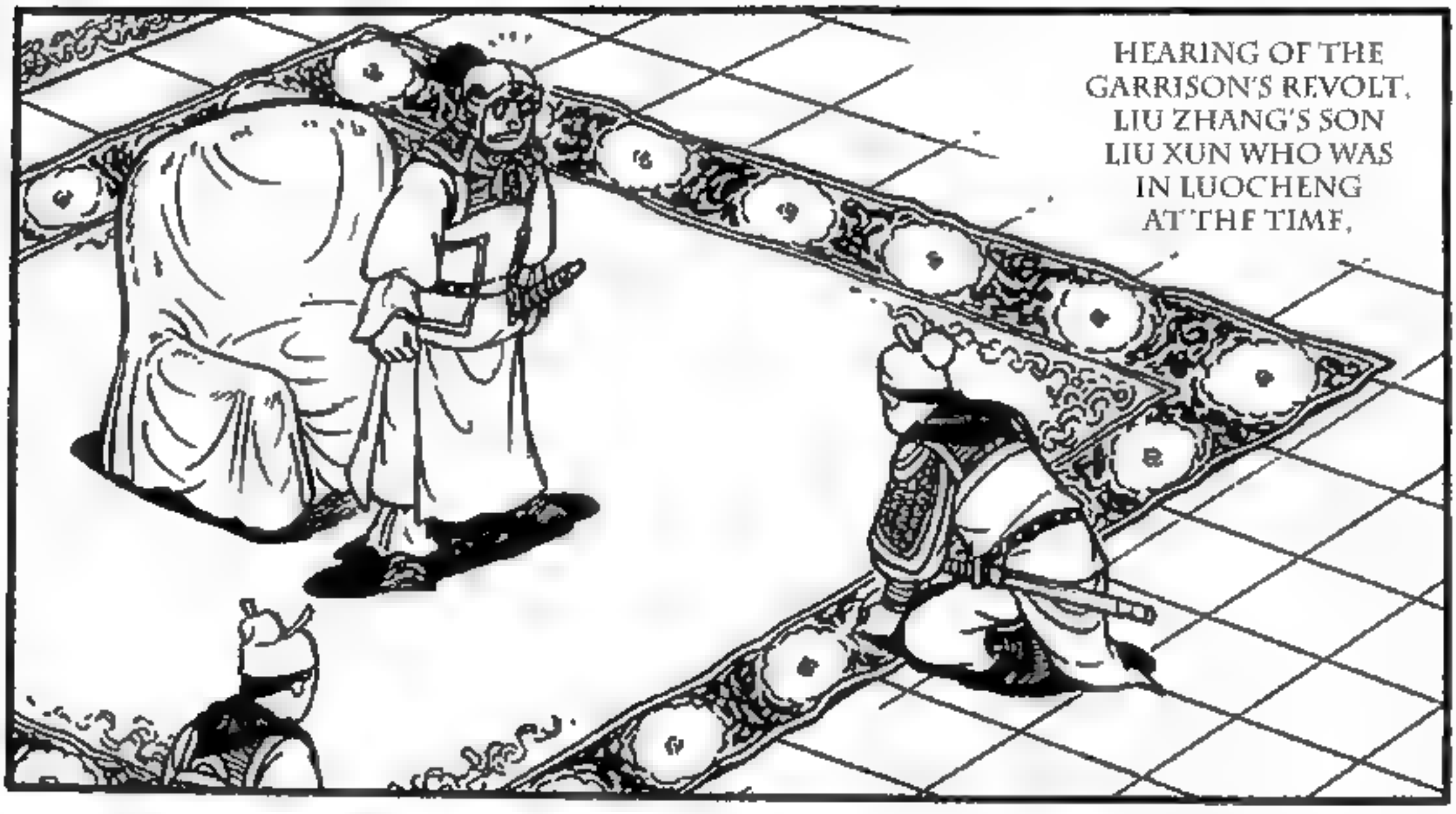
AH!
FORGIVE ME, SIR!

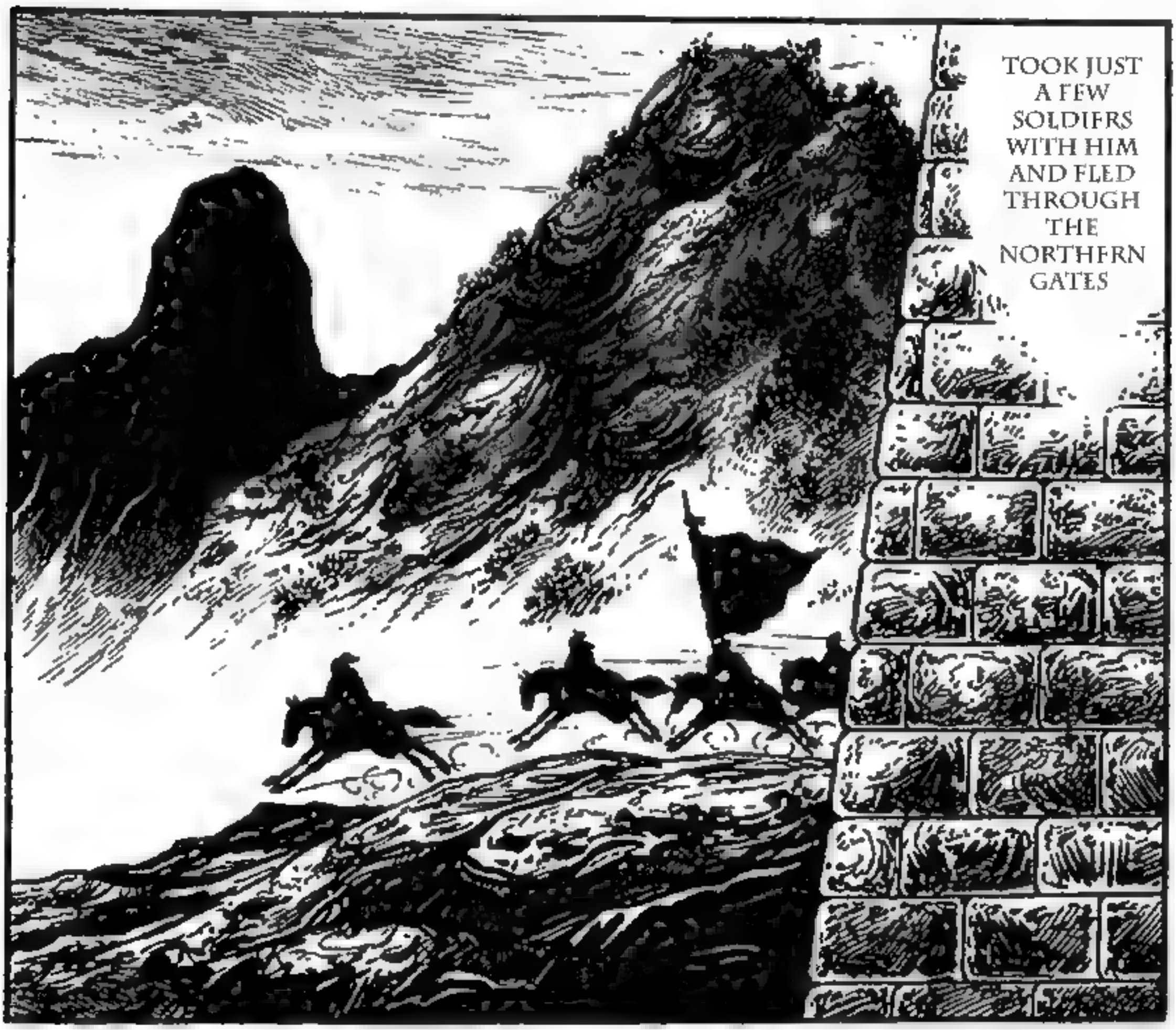


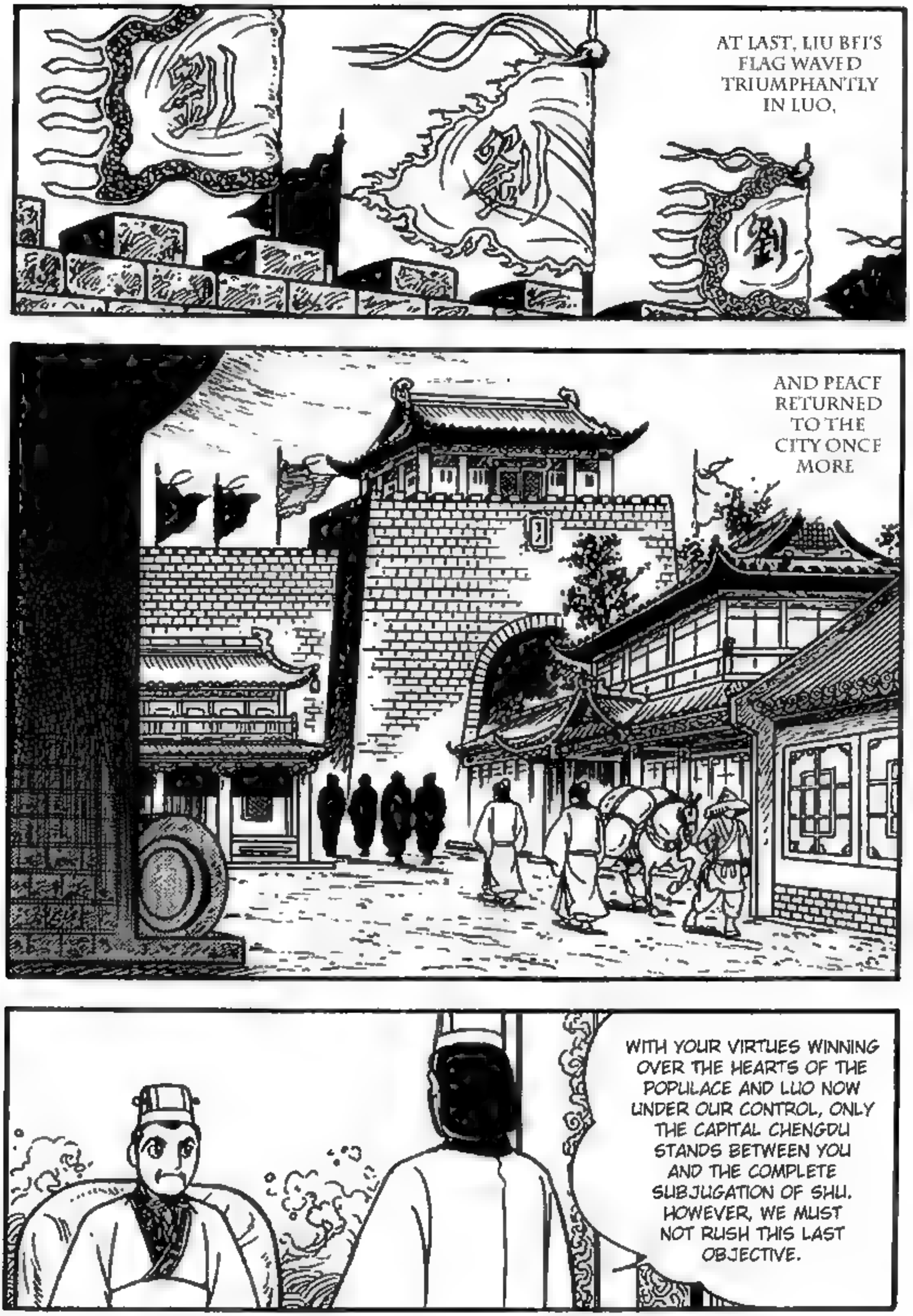
LET US MARCH INSIDE!


LUO IS NOW OURS.

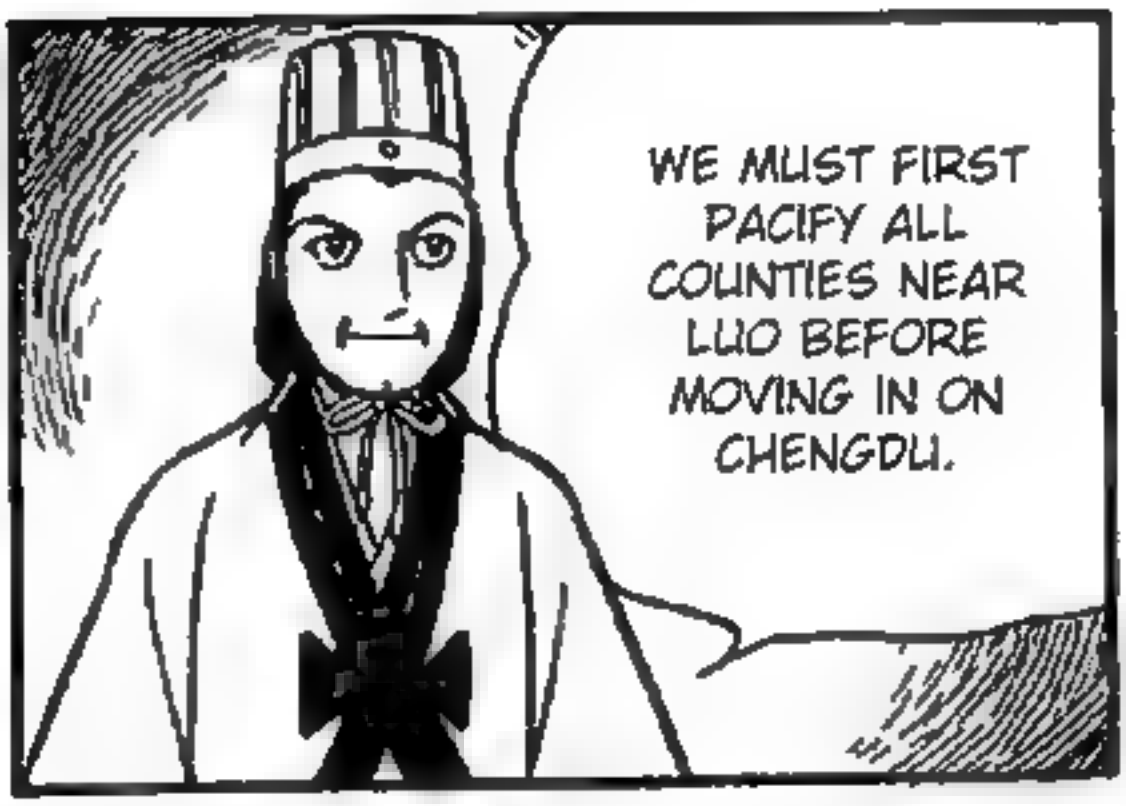
劉


HEARING OF THE GARRISON'S REVOLT, LIU ZHANG'S SON LIU XUN WHO WAS IN LUOCHENG AT THE TIME,

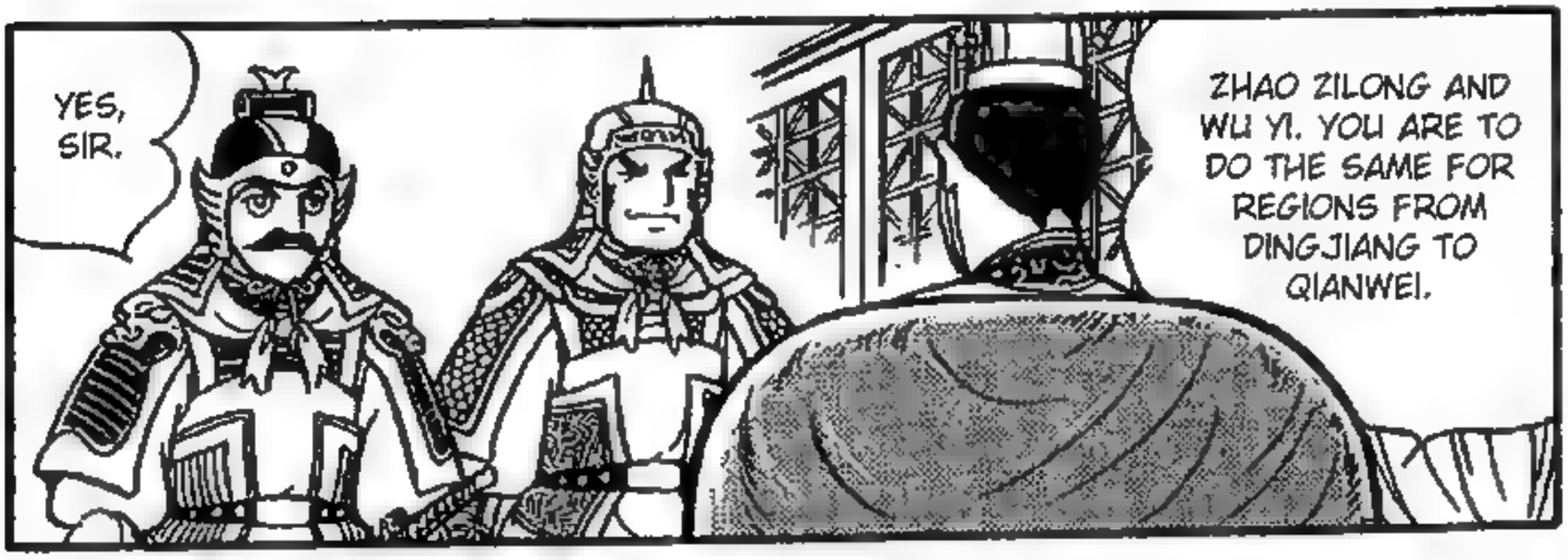

TOOK JUST A FEW SOLDIERS WITH HIM AND FLED THROUGH THE NORTHERN GATES


AT LAST, LIU BEI'S FLAG WAVED TRIUMPHANTLY IN LUO,
AND PEACE RETURNED TO THE CITY ONCE MORE
WITH YOUR VIRTUES WINNING OVER THE HEARTS OF THE POPULACE AND LUO NOW UNDER OUR CONTROL, ONLY THE CAPITAL CHENGDU STANDS BETWEEN YOU AND THE COMPLETE SUBJUGATION OF SHU. HOWEVER, WE MUST NOT RUSH THIS LAST OBJECTIVE.

YES,
I AGREE.


WE MUST FIRST PACIFY ALL COUNTIES NEAR LUO BEFORE MOVING IN ON CHENGDU.

YES,
SIR.
ZHANG FEI AND YAN YAN. YOU ARE TO PACIFY THE REGIONS FROM BAXI TO DEYANG.


YES,
SIR.
ZHAO ZILONG AND WU YI. YOU ARE TO DO THE SAME FOR REGIONS FROM DINGJIANG TO QIANWEI.

AND SO EACH GENERAL SET ABOUT IN TURNING THE LOCALS TO THEIR SIDE.
張
FOR THEY KNEW THAT STABLE RULE COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED IF THE POPULACE WAS HOSTILE
劉

MEANWHILE, KONGMING STARTED TO PLAN FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN

THERE ARE A FEW OTHER CHECKPOINTS, BUT NONE ARE MEANT FOR SERIOUS DEFENCE.

SO ONLY THE PASS AT MIANZHU STANDS BETWEEN HERE AND CHENGDU?

AH, WHAT IS IT, FA ZHENG?

KONG-MING.

IF HE REALIZES THAT MOST OF SHU HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO SERVE LIU BEI, HE WILL MEEKLY SUBMIT.

CHENGDU WILL INEVITABLY FALL UNDER OUR LORD'S CONTROL, BUT I FEAR ITS CITIZENS MAY DISTRUST OUR LORD IF A BLOODY SIEGE COMES TO PASS. SO LET ME TRY WRITING A LETTER TO LIU ZHANG, PLEADING HIM TO SURRENDER.

OF COURSE.

A SPLENDID IDEA. PLEASE DO SO AT ONCE.

MEANWHILE AT CHENGDU, THE CITY WAS AT PANIC AFTER HEARING LUOCHENG HAD FALLEN

WHAT'RE ALL MY OFFICERS DOING!? AT THIS RATE, WE'RE ONLY AWAITING OUR INEVITABLE DOOM!

I HEAR HE HAS YET TO MOVE FROM LUOCHENG.

WHEN DO YOU THINK LIU BEI WILL COME TO ATTACK CHENGDU?

WORRY NOT!? YOU TELL ME NOT TO WORRY EVEN AFTER WE'VE LOST LIUCHENG AND FU RIVER PASS!?

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, AS LONG AS THE STATE AND PEOPLE CAN UNITE IN MIND AND SPIRIT, IT CAN CALL FORTH EXTRAORDINARY RESILIENCE TO REPEL EVEN THE LARGEST OF ARMIES. WORRY NOT, MY LORD.

FORCIBLY RELOCATE?

I HAVE A PLAN TO SUGGEST, MY LORD. WE FORCIBLY RELOCATE THE PEOPLE OF BAXI TO WEST OF THE FU RIVER.

YES, AND WE BURN ALL THE FIELDS BEHIND AND POISON THE WELLS AS TO NOT LEAVE LIU BEI'S ARMY EVEN A SINGLE GRAIN OF RICE NOR A SINGLE DROP OF WATER.

NO, ABSO-LUTELY NOT.

THE ANCIENTS SAID IN TIMES OF DEFENSE, THE PEOPLE MUST BE PROTECTED, NOT HARMED! YOUR PLAN IS A LOSING-AFFAIR, THAT WILL ONLY HARM US IN THE LONG RUN!

YES, BUT YOU ARE FORGETTING A CRITICAL POINT.

WHY NOT, MY LORD? SURELY SUCH A MEASURE WILL STARVE OUR ENEMIES IN THE UPCOMING WINTER.

.....

EXACTLY. THE ENTIRE POPULACE WILL DESPISE OUR LORD AND TURN TO LIU BEI IF HE DID SUCH A THING.

LET'S SEE WHAT HE WISHES TO SAY...

WHAT, THAT TRAITOR!?

FA ZHENG HAS SENT YOU A LETTER, MY LORD.

THE SITUATION NOW FAVOURS LIU BEI, AS DO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE. TO CONTINUE ON WITH THIS FUTILE CONFLICT WILL ONLY CAUSE FURTHER PAIN AND SUFFERING OF THE INNOCENTS. I BEG YOU TO SURRENDER, FOR THE IMPERIAL UNCLE IS MERCIFUL AND-

GAHH!

A BACK-STABBER LIKE HIM DARES TO TAKE THE HIGHER MORAL GROUND AND URGE ME TO SURRENDER!?

WHA!?

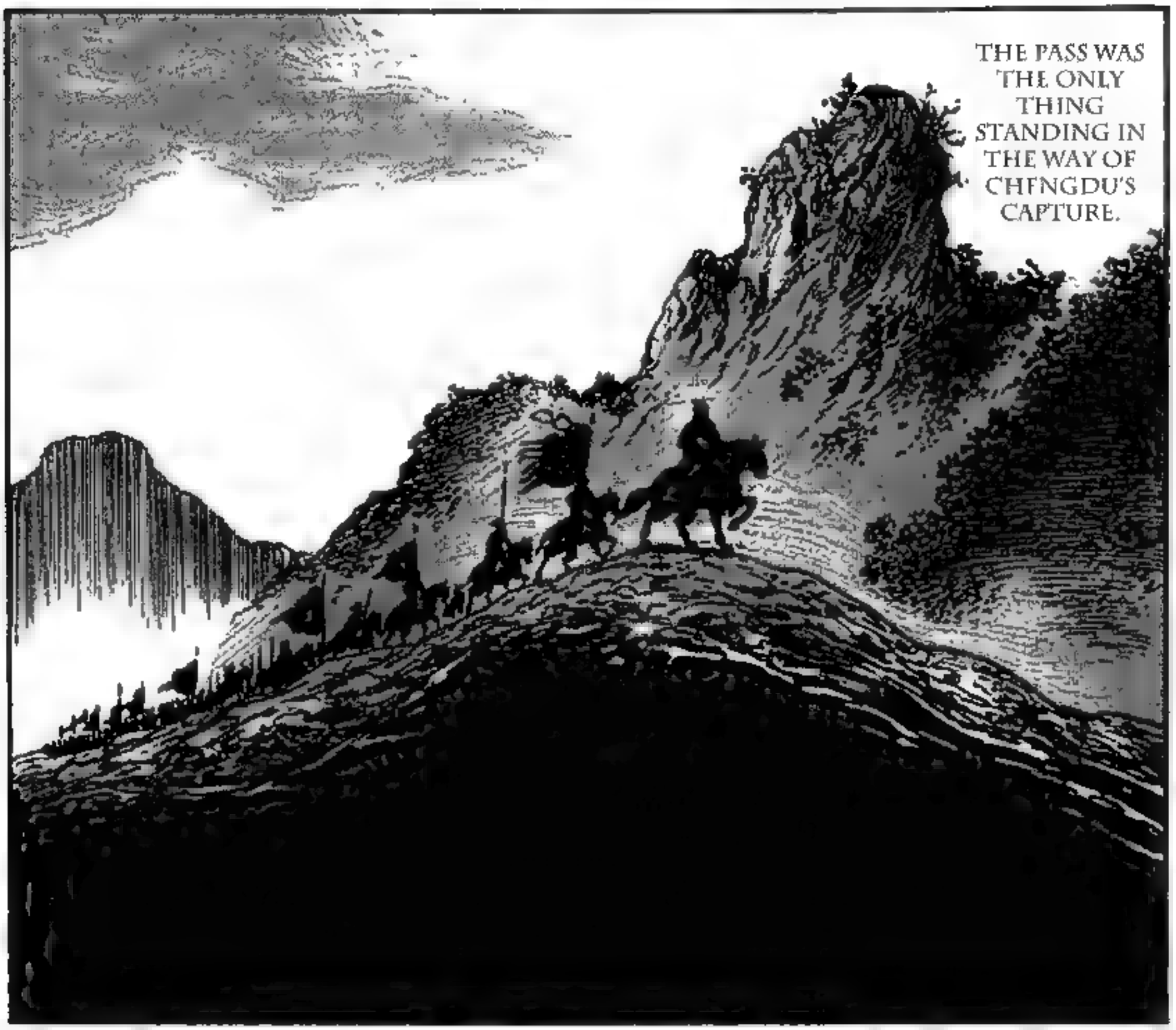
THERE IS NOW NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO ALLY WITH ZHANG LU OF HANZHONG.

YES, SO TELL HIM I'LL GLADLY GIVE HALF OF SHU IF HE CAN DRIVE LIU BEI AWAY!

BUT ZHANG LU WAS THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY ATTEMPTED TO INVADE SHU!

AT LAST, LIU ZHANG HAD OPTED TO SIDE WITH HIS FORMER ENEMY.

SEEING THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR SURRENDER WERE FUTILE, LIU BEI'S ARMY NOW HEADED FOR MIANZHU PASS.

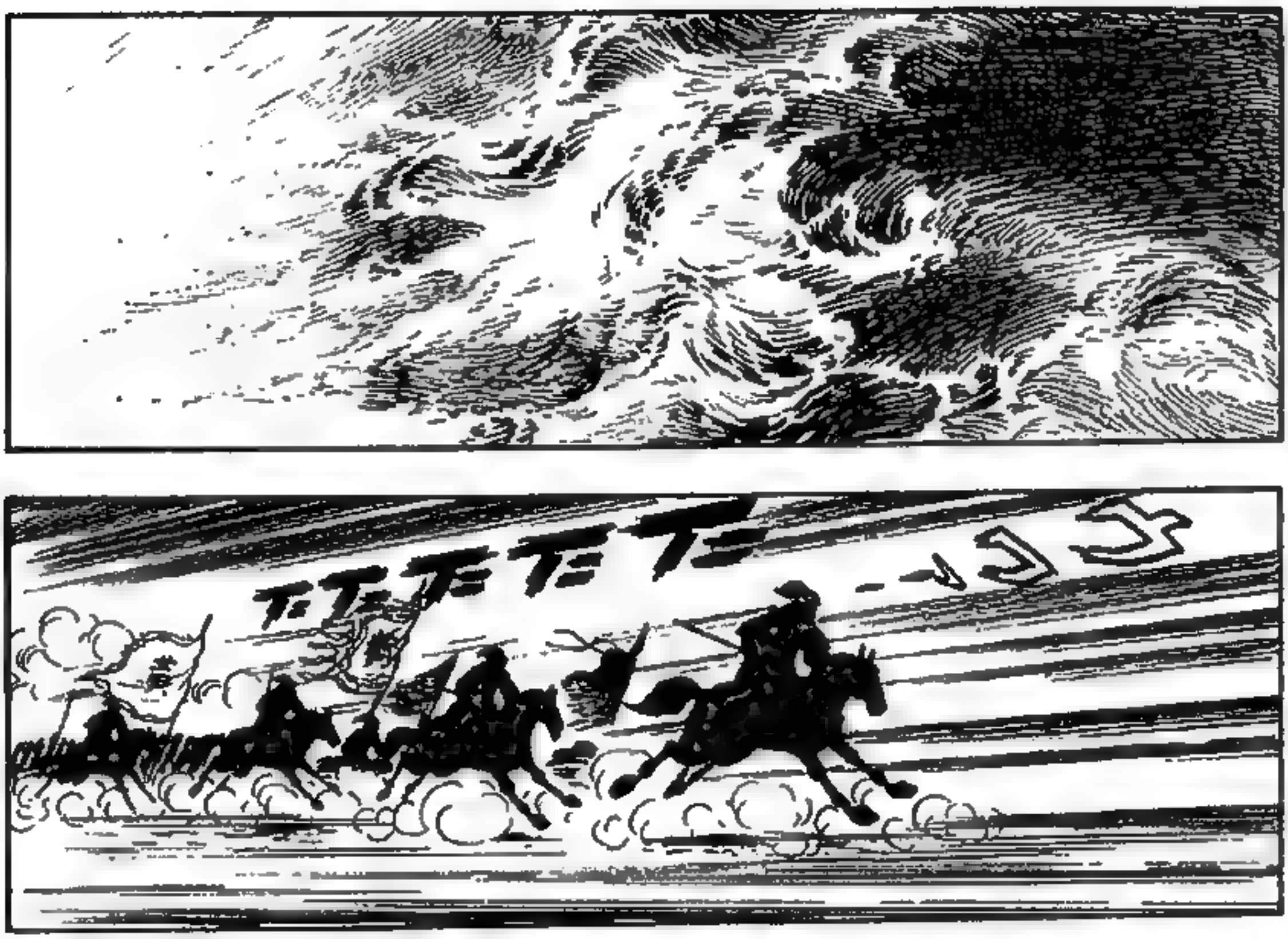

THE PASS WAS THE ONLY THING STANDING IN THE WAY OF CHENGDU'S CAPTURE.

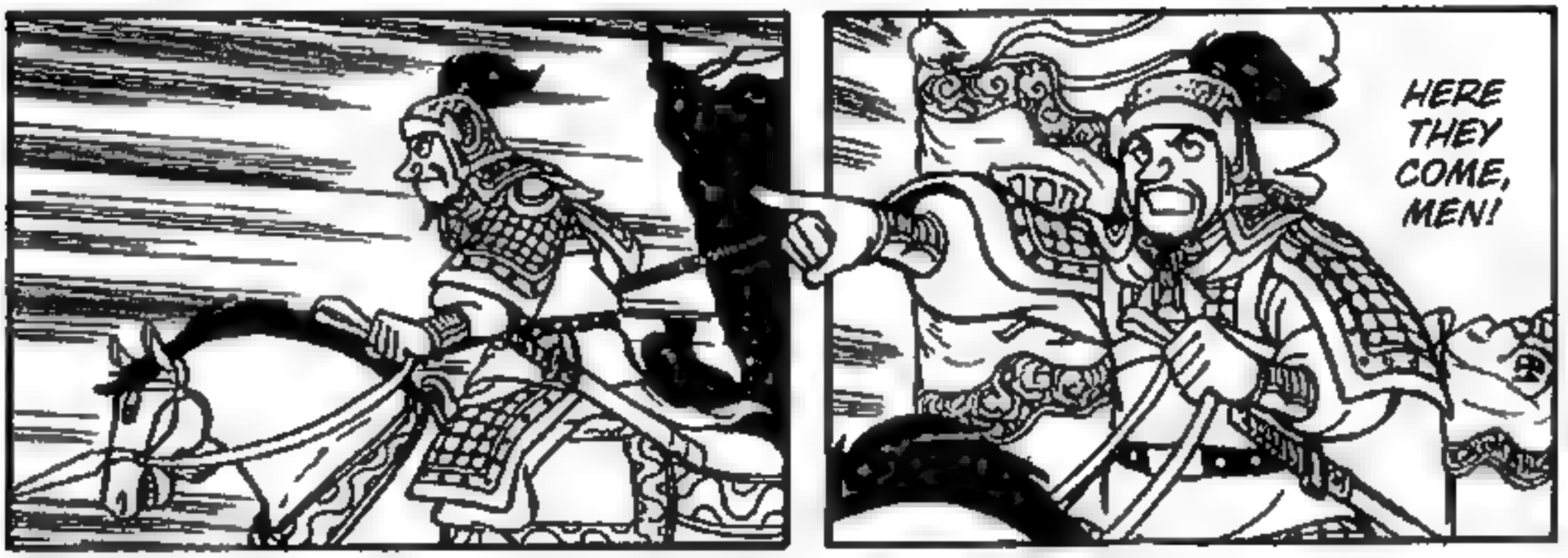
MIANZHU PASS

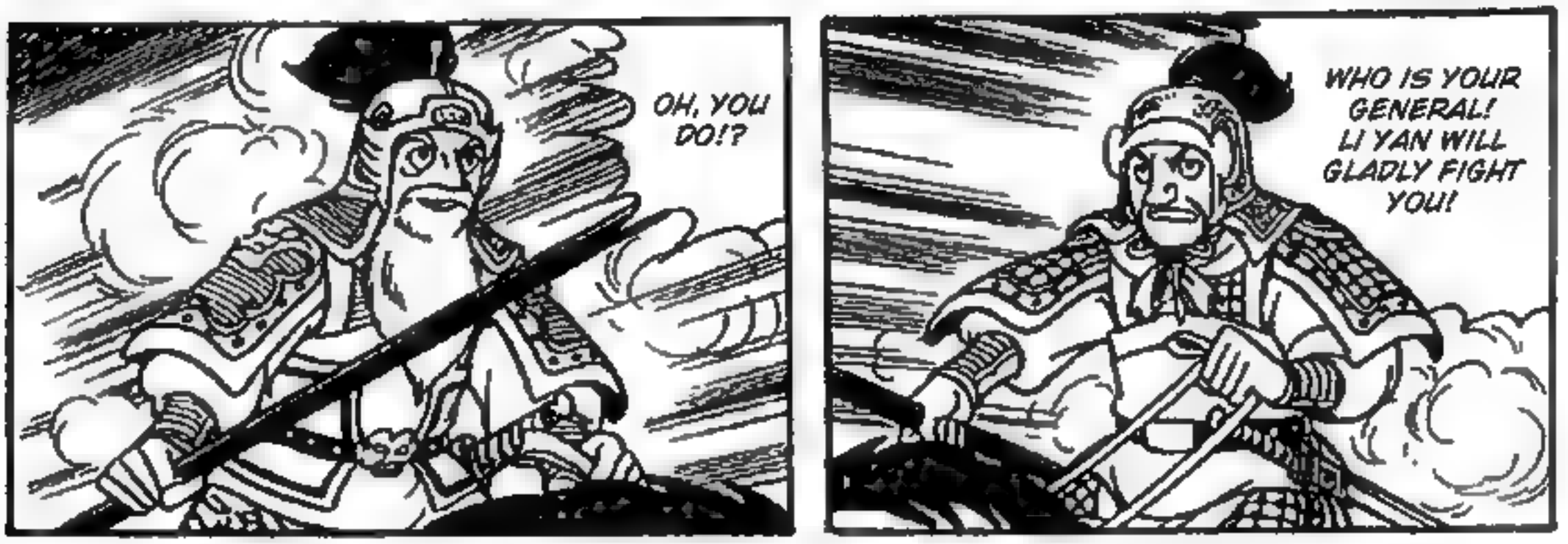
YES, FEI GUAN.

LI YAN, THE ENEMIES ARE FINALLY AT OUR GATES. I WANT YOU TO SET UP DEFENSIVE CAMPS OUTSIDE AND PREPARE TO MEET THEM.

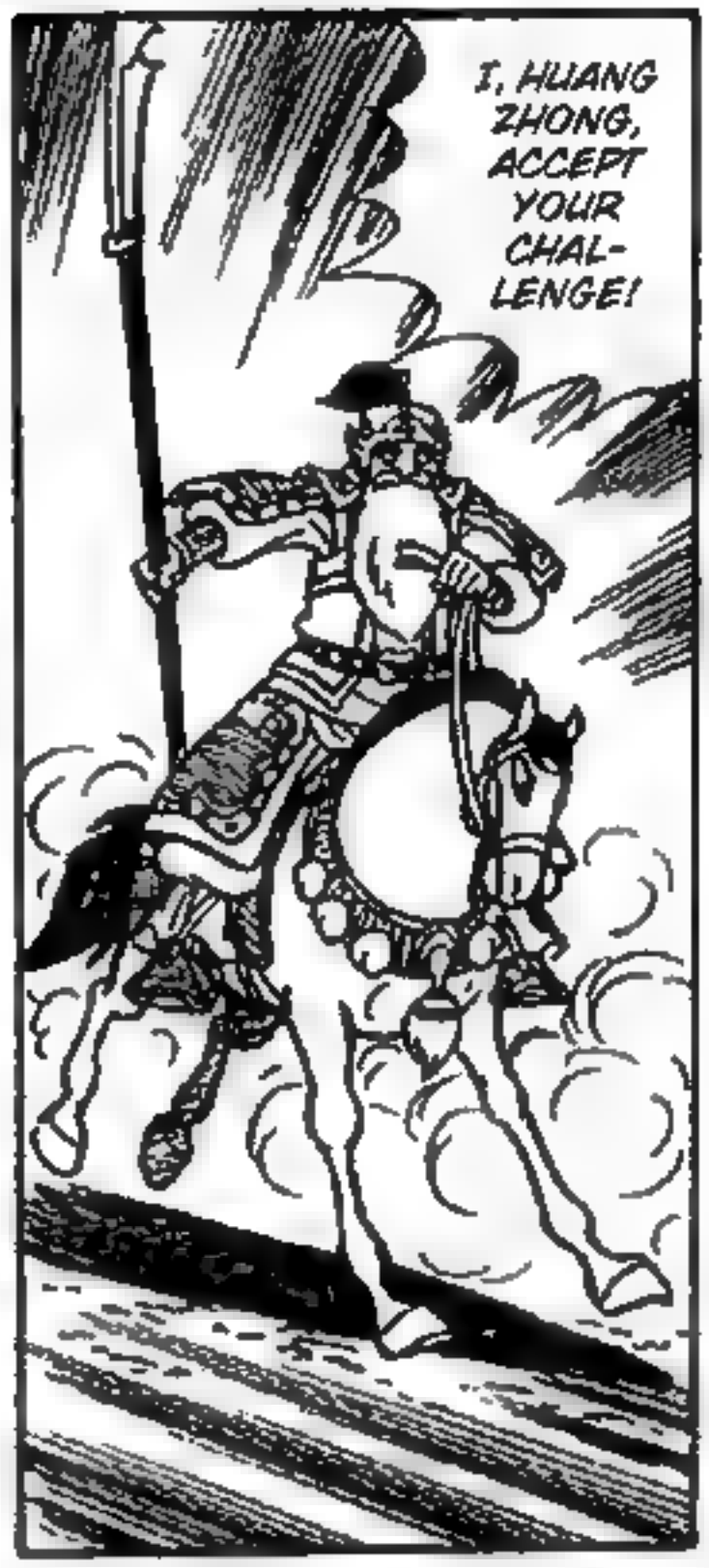
LEADING 3000 TROOPS, LI YAN SET UP CAMP JUST OUTSIDE THE PASS.

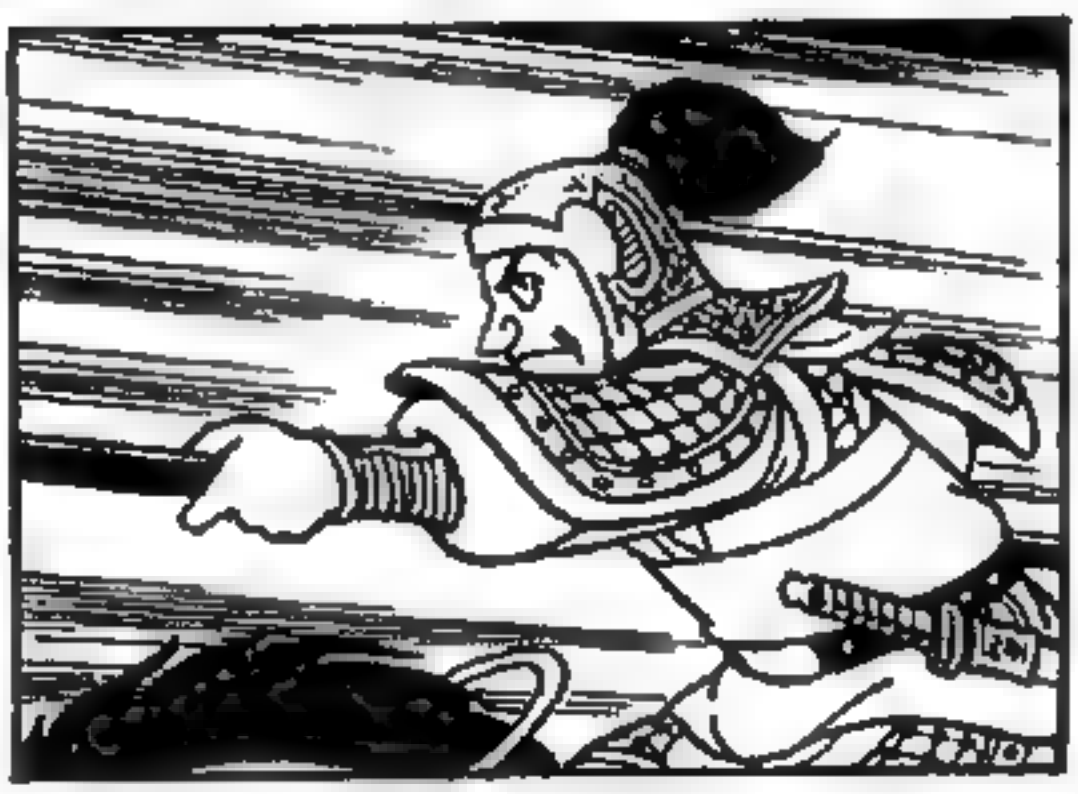


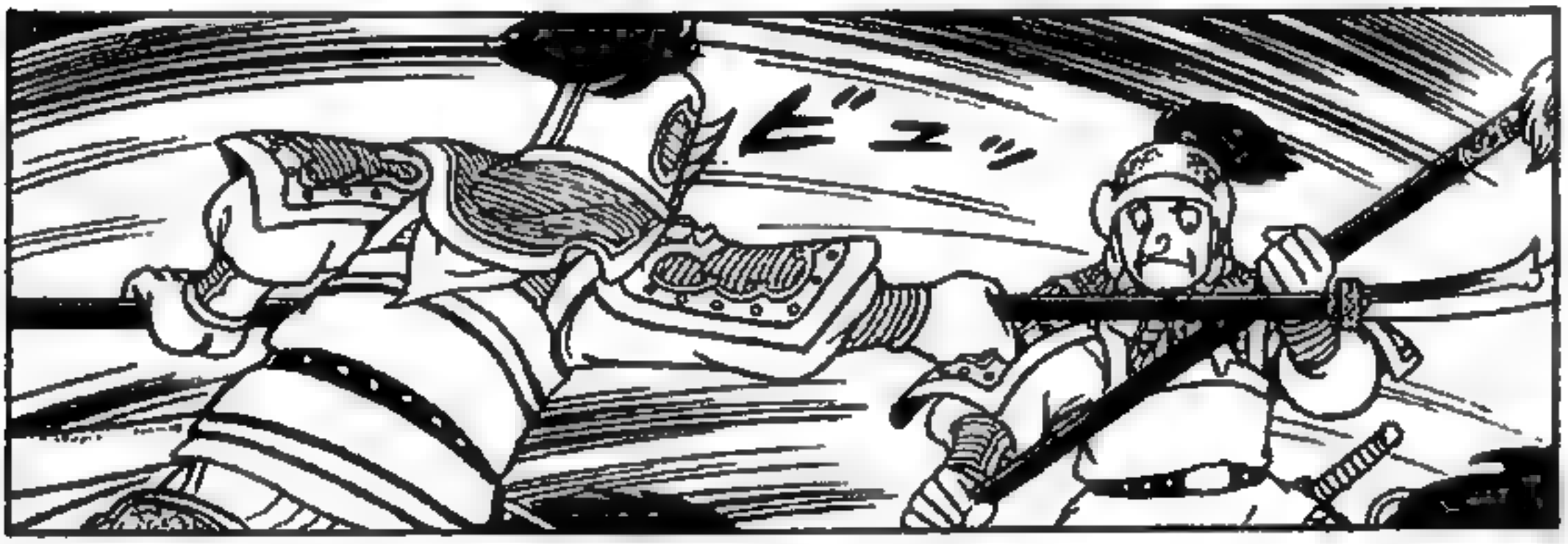

HERE THEY COME, MEN!


OH, YOU DO!?
WHO IS YOUR GENERAL! LI YAN WILL GLADLY FIGHT YOU!

A LITTLE OLD, AREN'T YOU!?


I, HUANG ZHONG, ACCEPT YOUR CHAL-LENGE!

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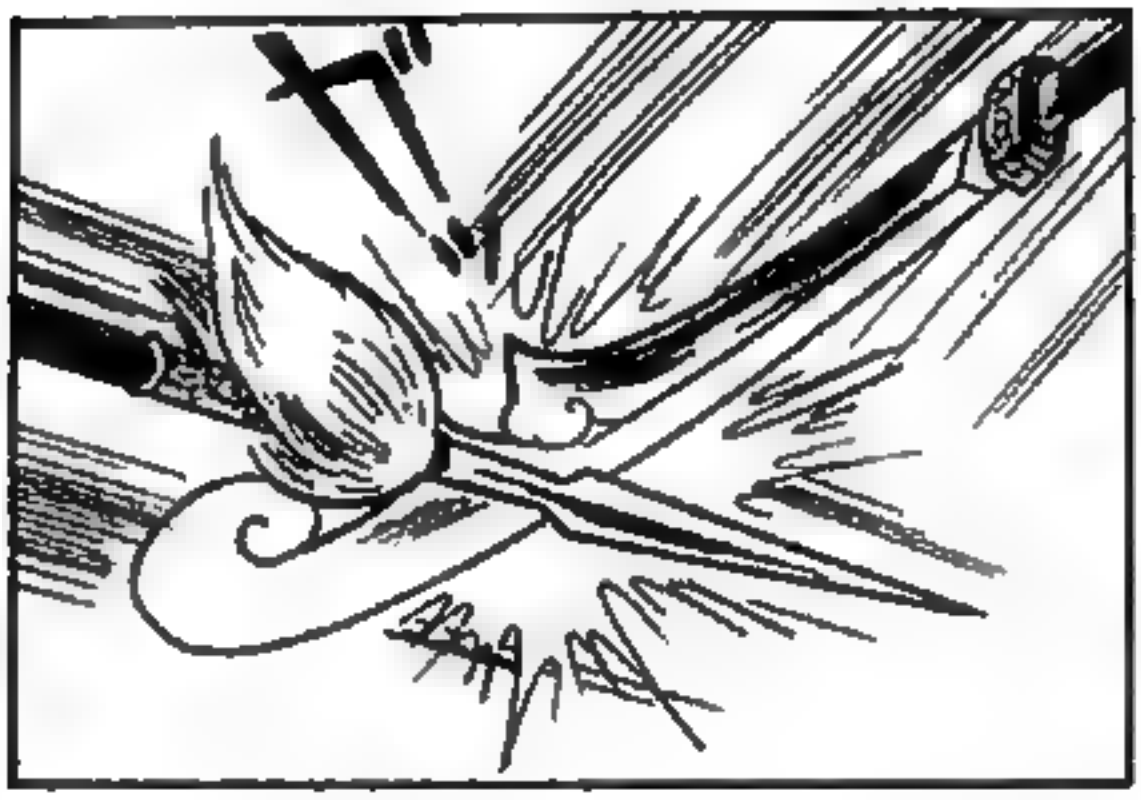


SOUND THE DRUMS FOR RETREAT.

HMM, THEY SEEM ABOUT EVEN...

YES, SIR.

THAT IS MY SIGNAL TO WITHDRAW! LET US FINISH OUR MATCH TOMORROW!

HM?

YOU AND THE ENEMY GENERAL LI YAN SEEMED FAIRLY EVEN.

WHY DID YOU ORDER A RETREAT, COMMANDER? THE FIGHT HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN!

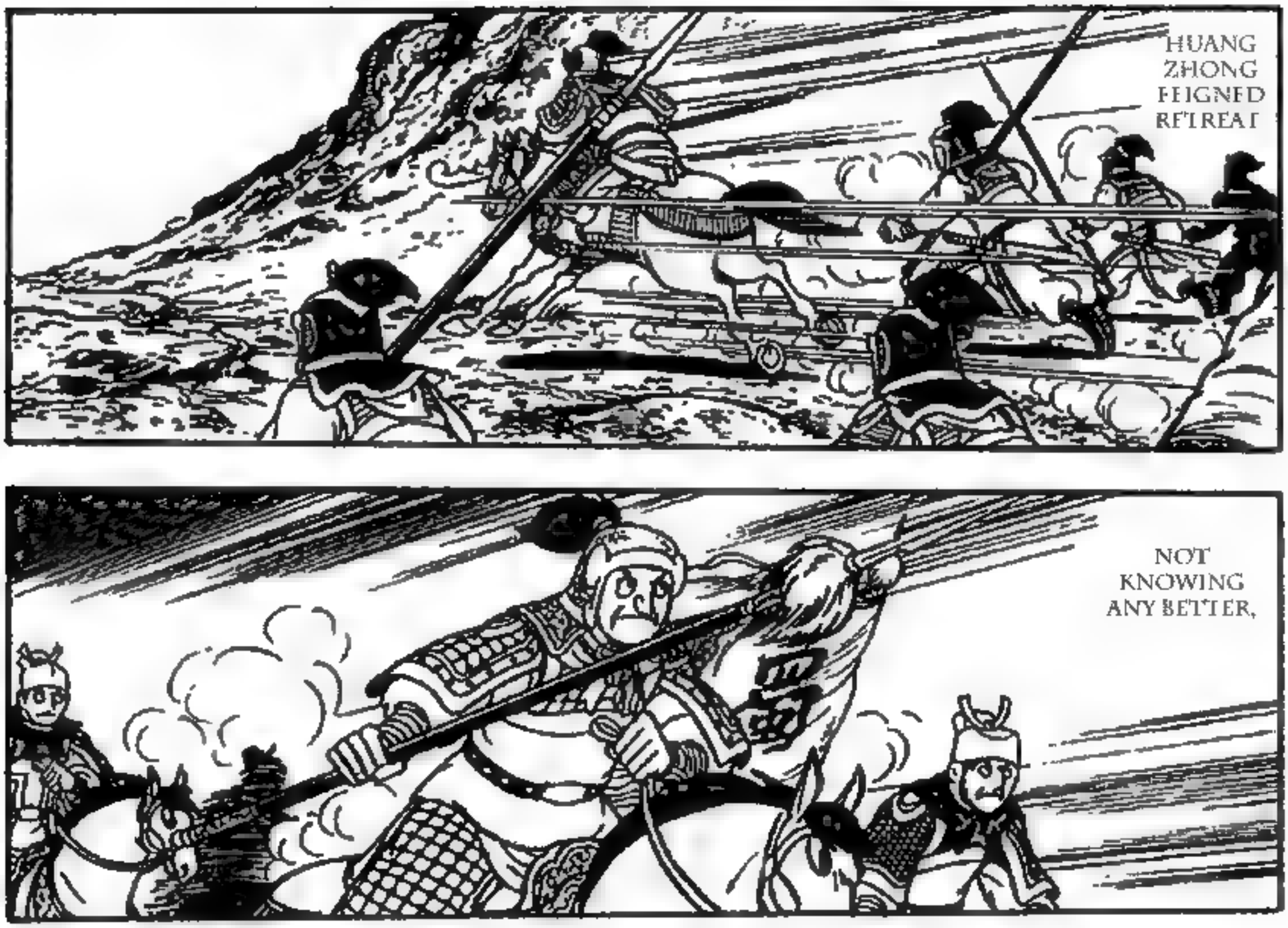
I BELIVE IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER TO PURSUE A PLAN IN WHICH NEITHER OF YOU WILL RISK INJURY.

TOMORROW, I WANT YOU TO FEIGN DEFEAT AND FLEE INTO THE HILLS, WHERE I WILL HAVE PLACED AN AMBUSH.

AS YOU WISH.

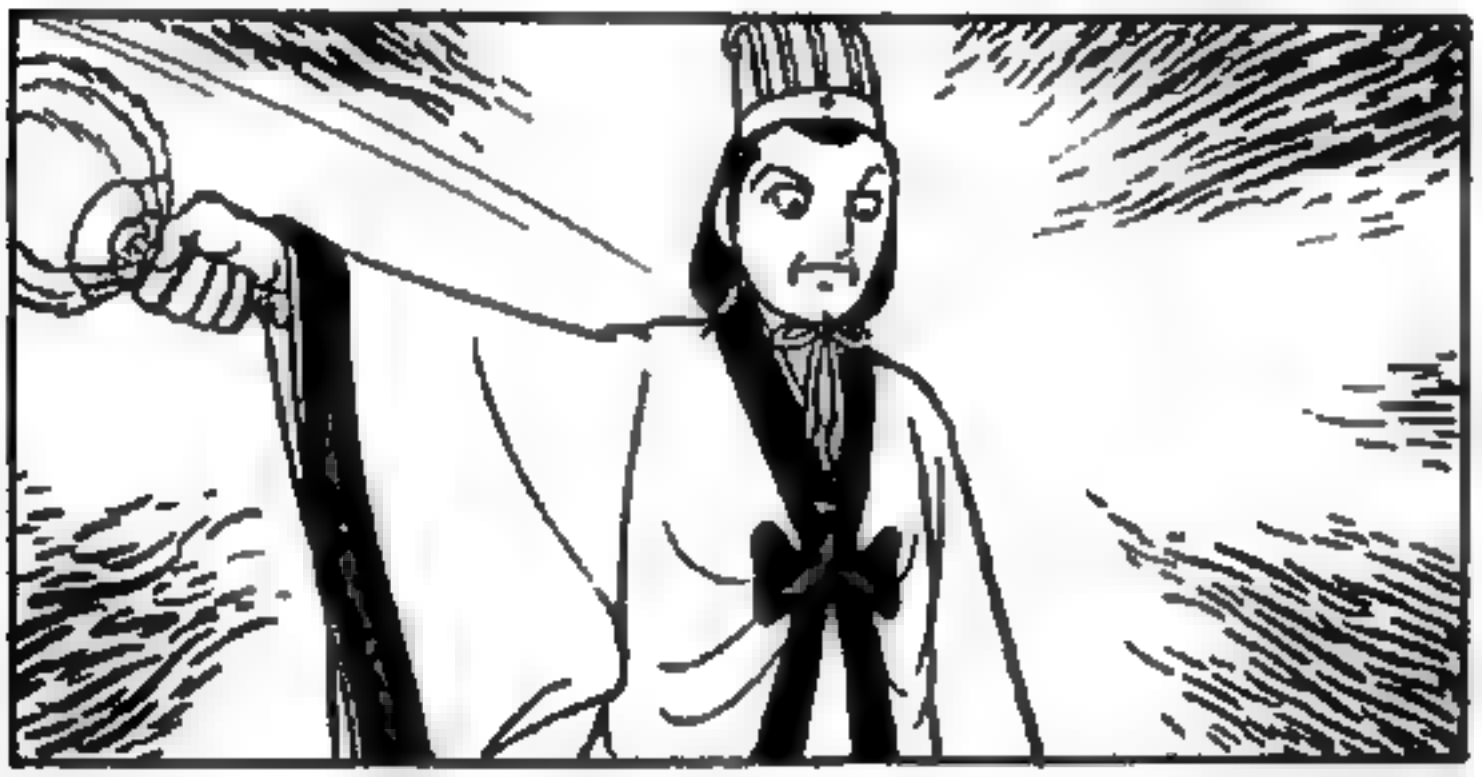
THERE IS NO POINT IN TAKING HIGH CASUALTIES JUST TO CAPTURE THIS PASS.

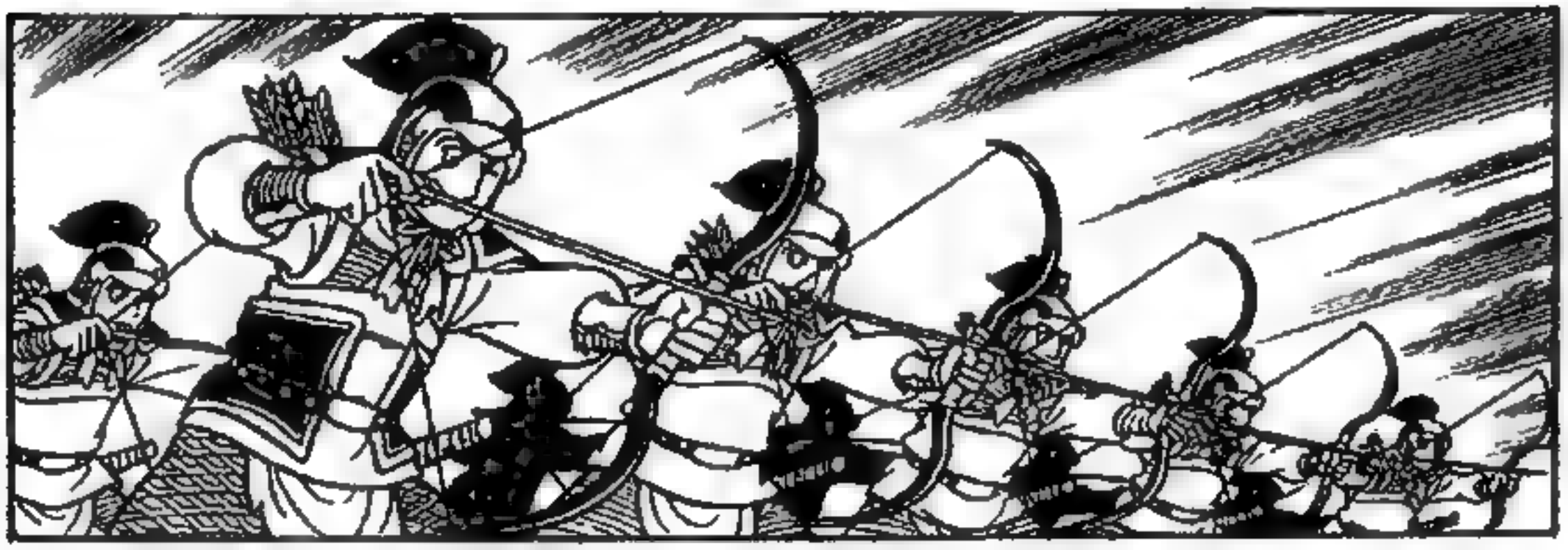
THE NEXT DAY.
HUANG ZHONG CHALLENGED LI YAN AGAIN
AND LI YAN NATURALLY ACCEPTED
BUT AFTER ABOUT 10 BOUTS .


HUANG ZHONG FEIGNED RETREAT
NOT KNOWING ANY BETTER,
LI YAN PURSUED THEM ALL THE WAY INTO THE HILLS

HM?

LI YAN!





W-WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED, SIR!

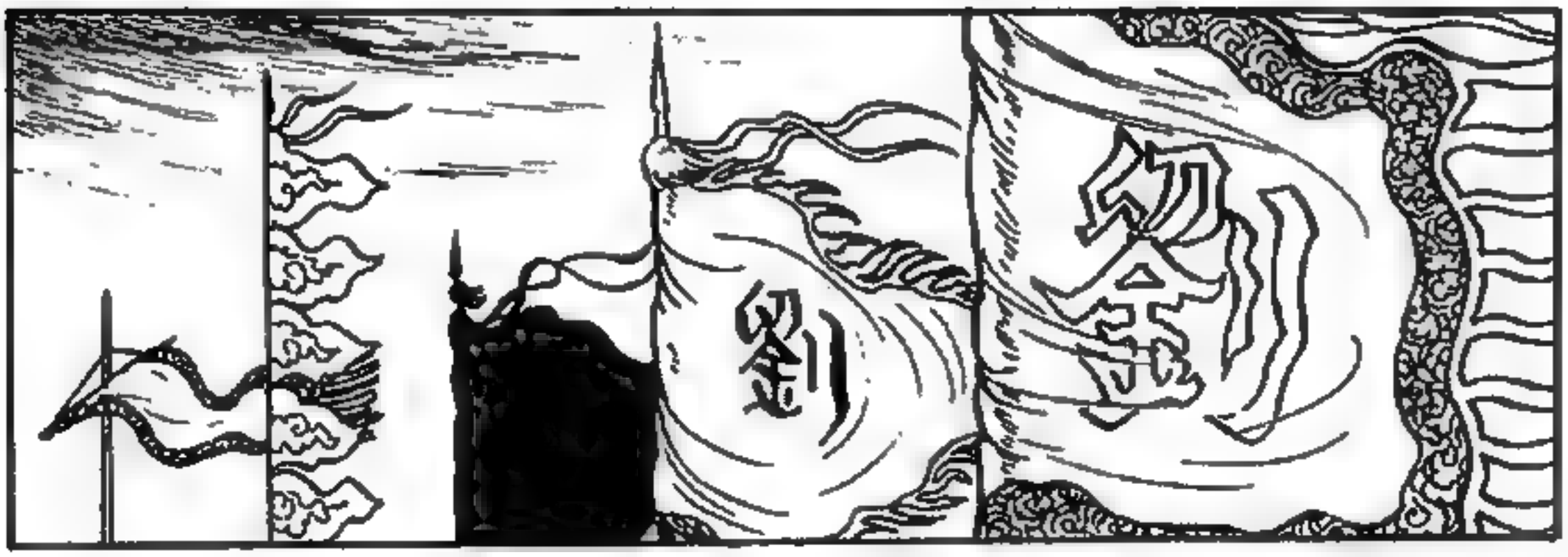
SURRENDER NOW, OR YOU WILL SUFFER THE SAME TRAGIC FATE AS PANG TONG.

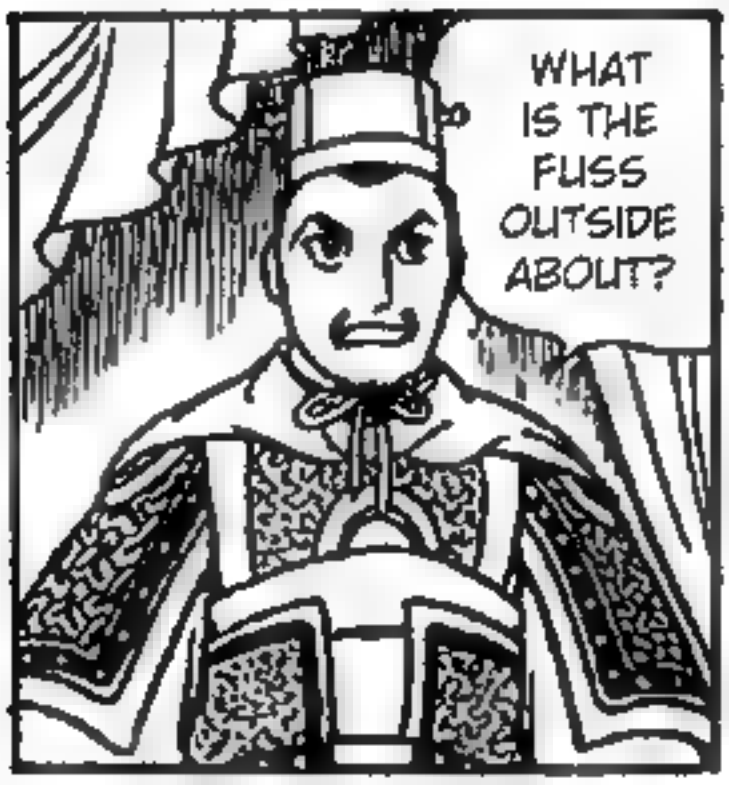
WE FELL RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP...

F-FINE, WE SURRENDER...

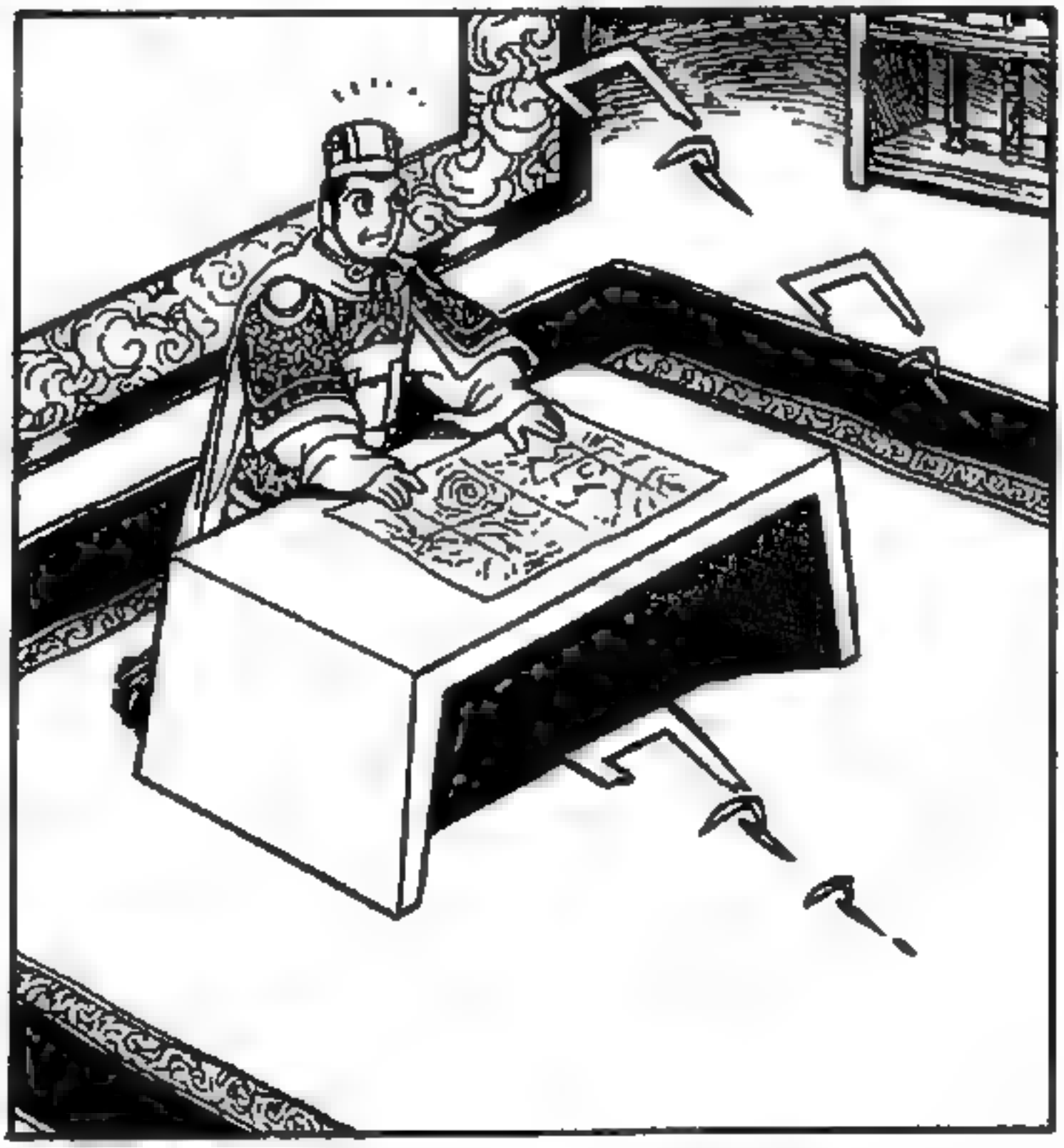
WELL!? WILL YOU THROW DOWN YOUR ARMS OR NOT!?

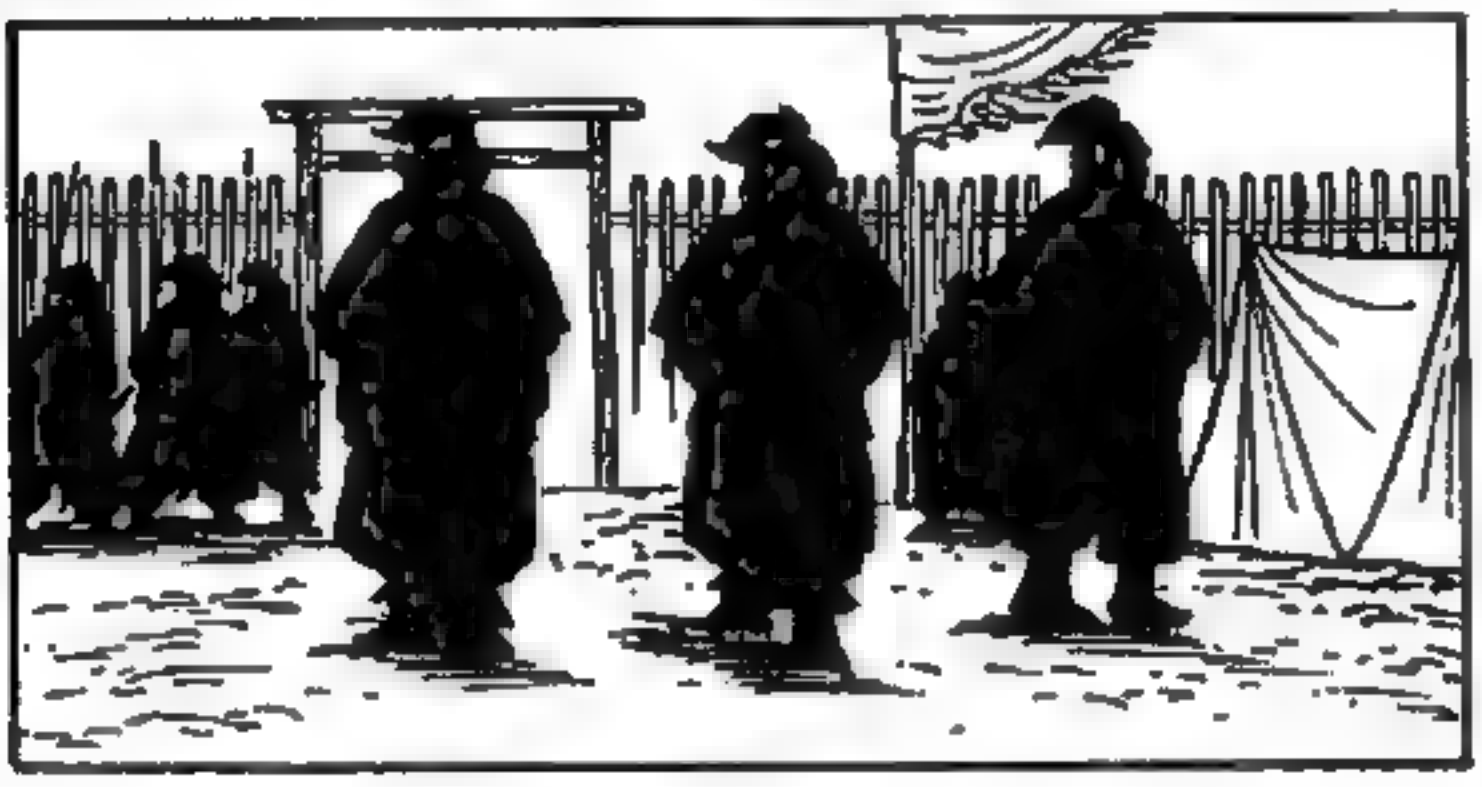
THROW DOWN YOUR ARMS!




WHAT IS THE FUSS OUTSIDE ABOUT?

THE MEN ARE EXCITED TO HAVE CAPTURED THE ENEMY GENERAL LI YAN, MY LORD.





OH?

AH.

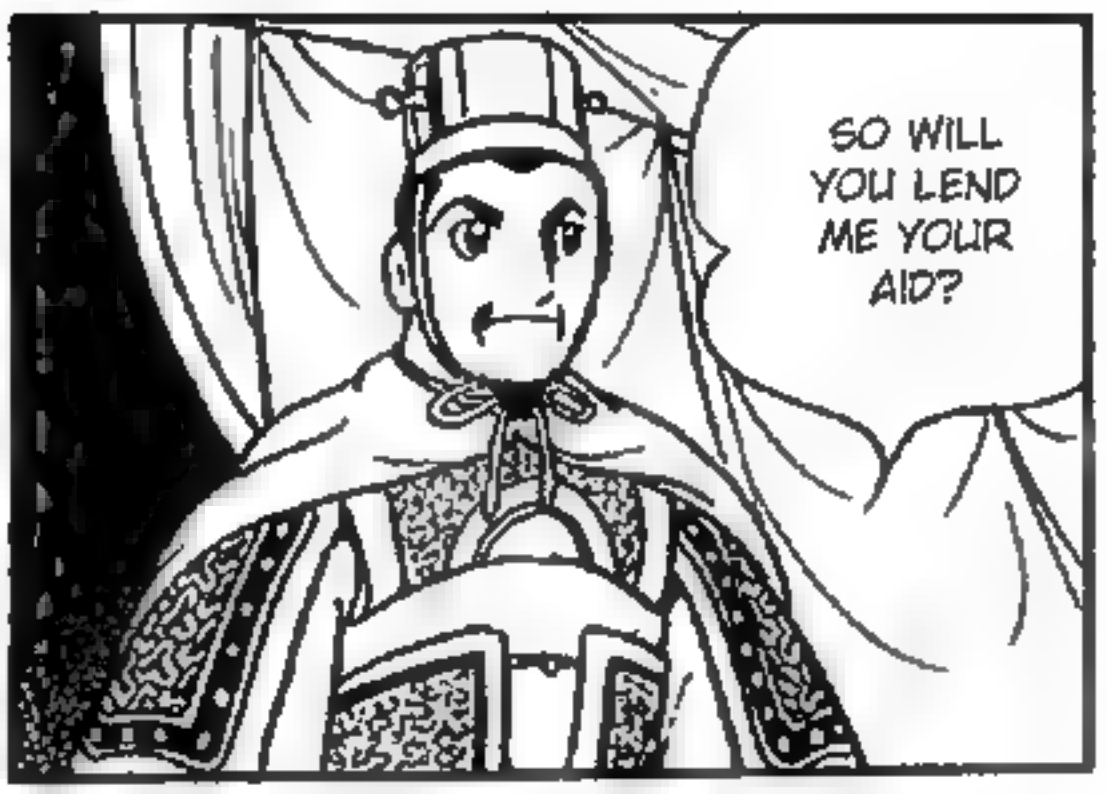
THIS IS MIANZHU PASS' GENERAL LI YAN.

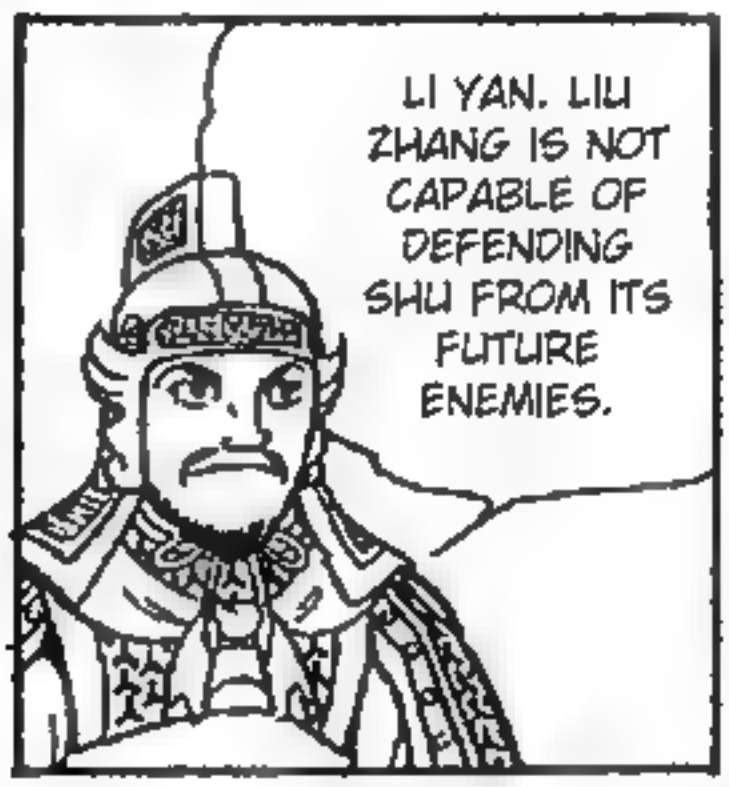
LET US NOT INSULT AN HONOURABLE WARRIOR.

UNTIE HIS ROPES.

LI YAN, LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I AM NOT FOND OF BLOODSHED, AND I WISH TO BRING THIS WAR TO A SWIFT CONCLUSION SO THAT SHU CAN DEVELOP INTO AN EVEN MORE PROSPEROUS STATE.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY LORD, LIU ZHANG?


SO WILL YOU LEND ME YOUR AID?


LI YAN. LIU ZHANG IS NOT CAPABLE OF DEFENDING SHU FROM ITS FUTURE ENEMIES.

LET US HELP BUILD A NEW SHU UNDER THE IMPERIAL UNCLE'S RULE.

HMM...
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING HIM. WE ARE OF THE SAME FAMILY, AND HAVING SWORN BROTHER-HOOD WITH HIM, I PLAN TO TREAT HIM FAVOURABLY.

BUT IF YOU WILLINGLY GIVE ME THIS CHANCE TO CONTINUE DEFENDING MY HOMELANDS, HOW CAN I REFUSE?

AFTER BEING CAPTURED, I EXPECTED NO BETTER FATE BUT TO BE EXECUTED.

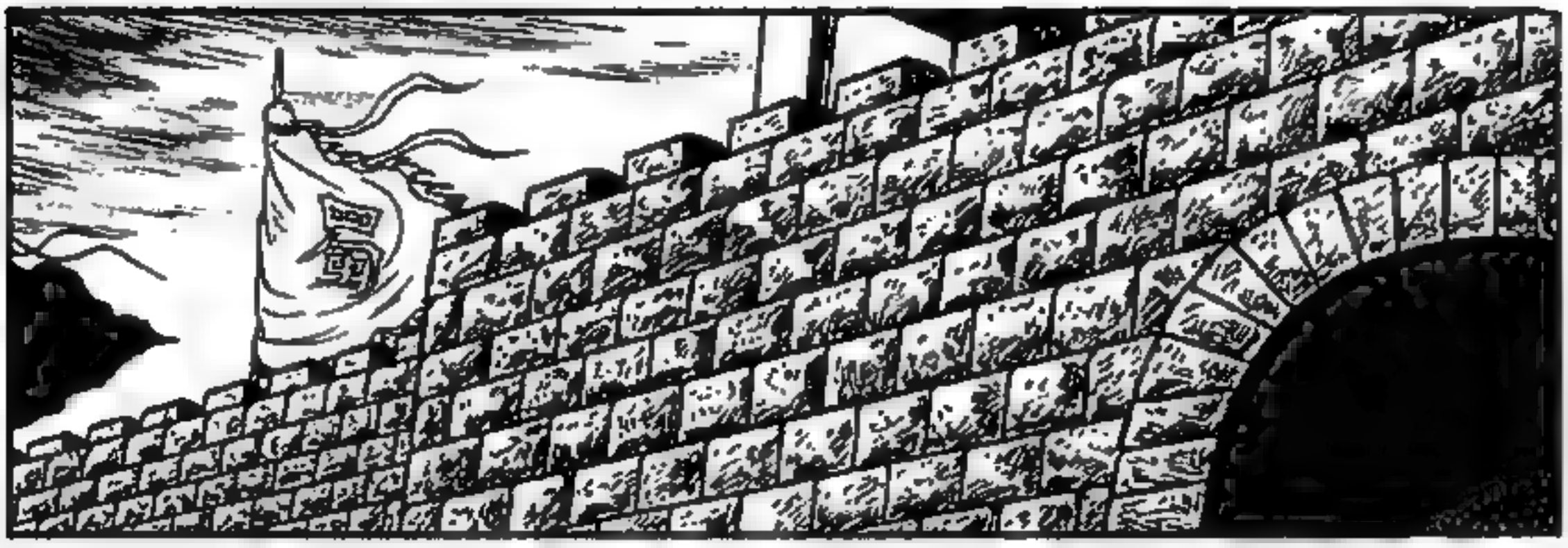
YES, LET ME START BY PERSUADING MY CLOSEST FRIEND FEI GUAN, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF MIANZHU PASS, TO JOIN ME.

SO YOU'LL LEND ME YOUR AID?

I PROMISE YOU I WILL BRING YOU BACK SUCCESS.

EXCELLENT. THAT WAY, BLOOD WILL NOT BE NEED-LESSLY SHED.

AND SO, LI YAN RETURNED ALONE TO MIANZHU PASS.



YES, I DON'T THINK LIU ZHANG CAN STAVE OFF THE AMBITIONS OF CAO CAO OR ZHANG LU FOR LONG EITHER.

HMM...

ALRIGHT THEN. YOU AND I HAVE ALREADY SWORN A FATE TO LIVE AND DIE TOGETHER, AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BREAKING THAT NOW. I WILL JOIN YOU UNDER LIU BEI.

IF LIU BEI REALLY IS AS ADMIRABLE AS YOU SAY, THEN ENTRUSTING SHU TO HIM MIGHT BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLE.

LET US WELCOME A NEW ERA FOR SHU.

THANK YOU FOR UNDER-STANDING.

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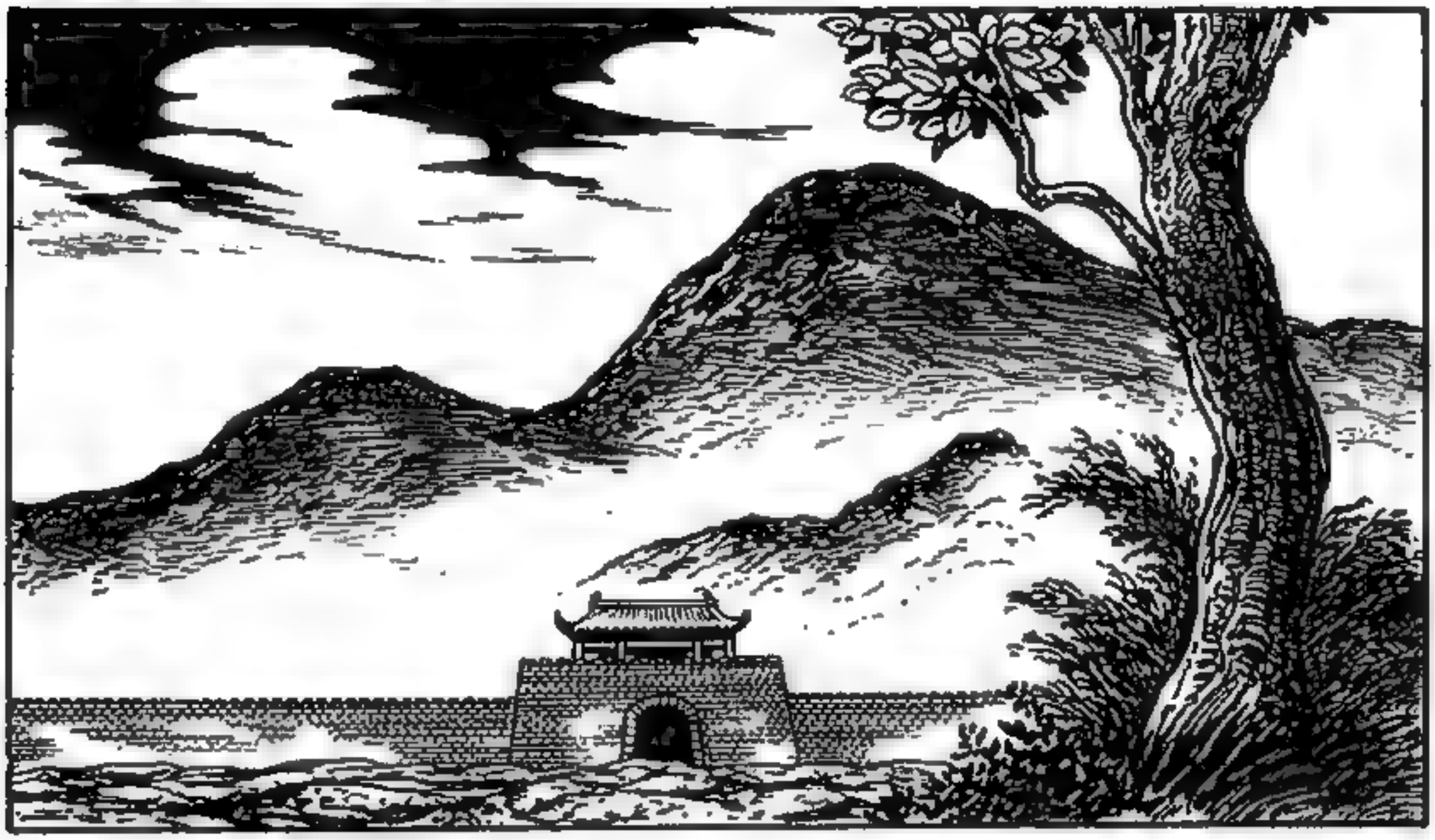
AND THUS MIANZHU PASS CAME UNDER LIU BEI'S CONTROL AS WELL.

# HANZHONG SENDS MA CHAO



THAT'S RIGHT!

PREPOSTEROUS! I'M SURE HE'LL EITHER RENEGE ON THE PROMISE OR WILL SIMPLY TAKE THE COUNTIES BACK AFTER WE'VE TIRED OURSELVES OUT FIGHTING WITH LIU BEI!

HE MUST BE QUITE DESPERATE. HE PROMISES TO HAND OVER 20 COUNTIES IF I CAN JUST DRIVE AWAY LIU BEI'S ARMY.

AHH, MA CHAO!

I HAVE STILL NOT REPAID YOU FOR SHELTERING ME AFTER MY DEFEAT AGAINST CAO CAO.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO GAIN THOSE COUNTIES FOR YOU, LORD-PRECEPTOR ZHANG LU!

IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO LEND ME EVEN A SMALL ARMY, I WILL GLADLY LEAD IT TO CAPTURE LIU BEI AND ENSURE LIU ZHANG UPHOLDS HIS END OF THE DEAL.

THANK YOU, SIR.
I HEREBY GRANT YOU PERMISSION TO LEAD MY TROOPS.
YES, A WARRIOR LIKE YOU CAN SURELY FULFILL SUCH A TASK.
THE FORMIDABLE MA CHAO OF XILIANG NOW LED A 20,000-STRONG ARMY TOWARDS SHU.

WHAT? MA CHAO IS LEADING AN ARMY TOWARDS JIAMENG PASS?

MIANZHU PASS

WE MUST SEND REINFORCEMENTS AT ONCE BUT...

YES, MENG DA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND JIAMENG PASS ALONE.

ISN'T MA CHAO THAT YOUNGSTER WHO PROVED TO BE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR CAO CAO? WHY, IF IT WEREN'T FOR INTERNAL DISSENSION, HE MIGHT HAVE EVEN BEATEN CAO CAO.

THEN PLEASE TAKE ZHANG FEI WITH YOU TO JIAMENG PASS.

BUT ZHAO ZILONG IS STILL OUT PACIFYING THE NEARBY COUNTIES. ONLY ZHANG FEI HAS RETURNED SO FAR.

AN ENEMY OF MA CHAO'S CALIBRE REQUIRES A GENERAL LIKE ZHAO ZILONG OR ZHANG FEI. EVEN BOTH, IF POSSIBLE.

MY LORD, PLEASE KEEP QUIET WHILE I TOUCH ZHANG FEI'S NERVES SLIGHTLY. IT IS ALL FOR THE BEST, I ASSURE YOU.

HMM, BUT ZHANG FEI CAN BE A BIT IMPULSIVE. IT WOULD BE BEST TO MAKE SURE HE WON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE HIS FOE THIS TIME...

YES, SIR.

PLEASE CALL GENERAL ZHANG FEI HERE.

THE COM-MANDER CALLS FOR YOUR PRESENCE, GENERAL.

INDEED I DID.

YOU CALLED?

WHY, WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M AFRAID WE MUST CALL GUAN YU HERE AT ONCE.

MA CHAO IS, OF COURSE, THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF XILIANG. WITHOUT A GENERAL OF AT LEAST GUAN YU'S CALIBRE, WE CANNOT REPEL H.M.

THE GREAT WARRIOR MA CHAO IS ON HIS WAY TO ATTACK JIAMENG PASS RIGHT NOW.

A-ARE YOU NOT AWARE WHO YOU'RE SPEAKING TO!?

WHAT?

OH PLEASE. THEIR RETREAT HAD MORE TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT THE BRIDGE WAS FAR TOO SMALL TO ACCOMDATE A SAFE CROSSING OF THEIR LARGE FORCES.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS I, ZHANG FEI, WHO SCARED OFF CAO CAO'S GRAND ARMY AT CHANGBAN BRIDGE WITH A SINGLE GLARE!?

THAT IS PRECISELY WHY WE NEED GUAN YU RIGHT NOW.

THIS IS MA CHAO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. THE MAN FAMOUS FOR HIS STANDOFF AGAINST CAO CAO DURING THEIR 6 BATTLES ALONG THE WEI RIVER. IN ONE BATTLE, CAO CAO WAS SO SCARED OUT OF HIS WITS THAT HE THREW OFF HIS CAPE AND FLED FOR HIS LIFE.

I WILL SUFFER ANY PUNISH-MENT UNDER MILITARY LAW IF I WERE TO FAIL.

*I REQUEST YOU GIVE ME THE TASK OF DEFEATING MA CHAO!*

I'LL EVEN PROMISE YOU IN WRITING IF YOU'RE STILL CONCERNED!

HM...

THERE! THIS SHOULD DO, RIGHT!?

BUT LET ME WARN YOU NOT TO UNDERESTI-MATE THE YOUNGSTER MA CHAO!

OF COURSE, OF COURSE.

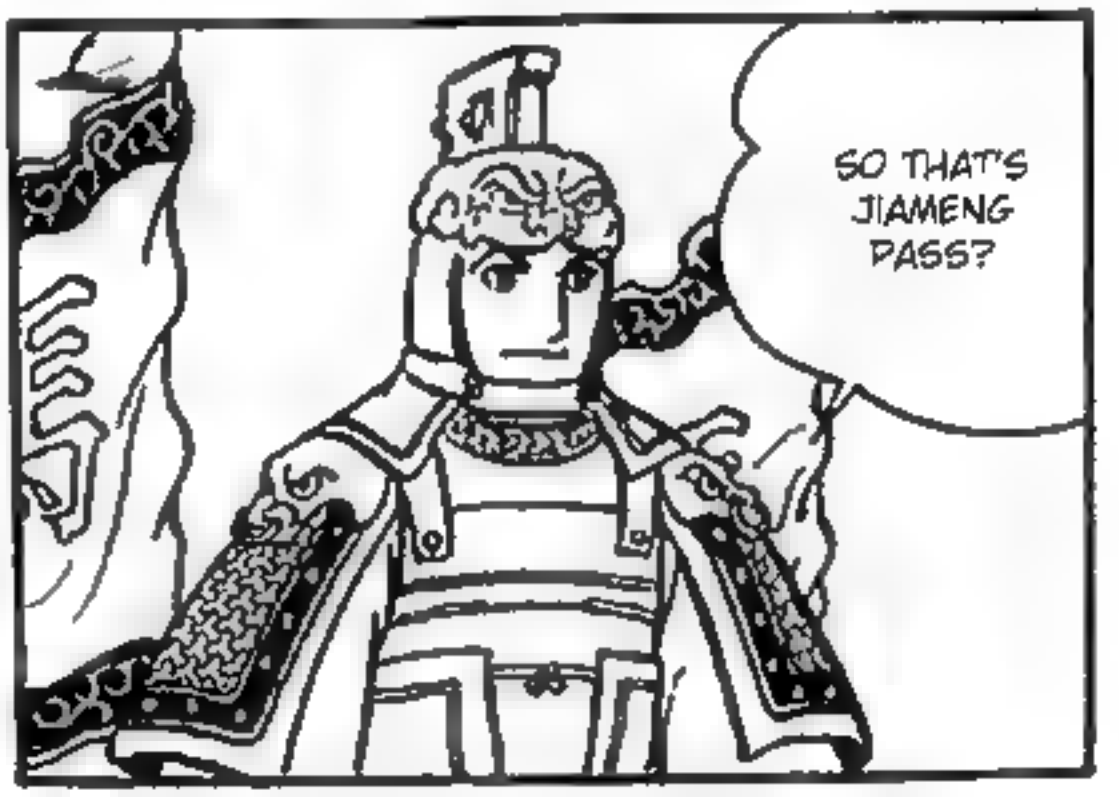
HAHA, I KNEW YOU'D COME AROUND!

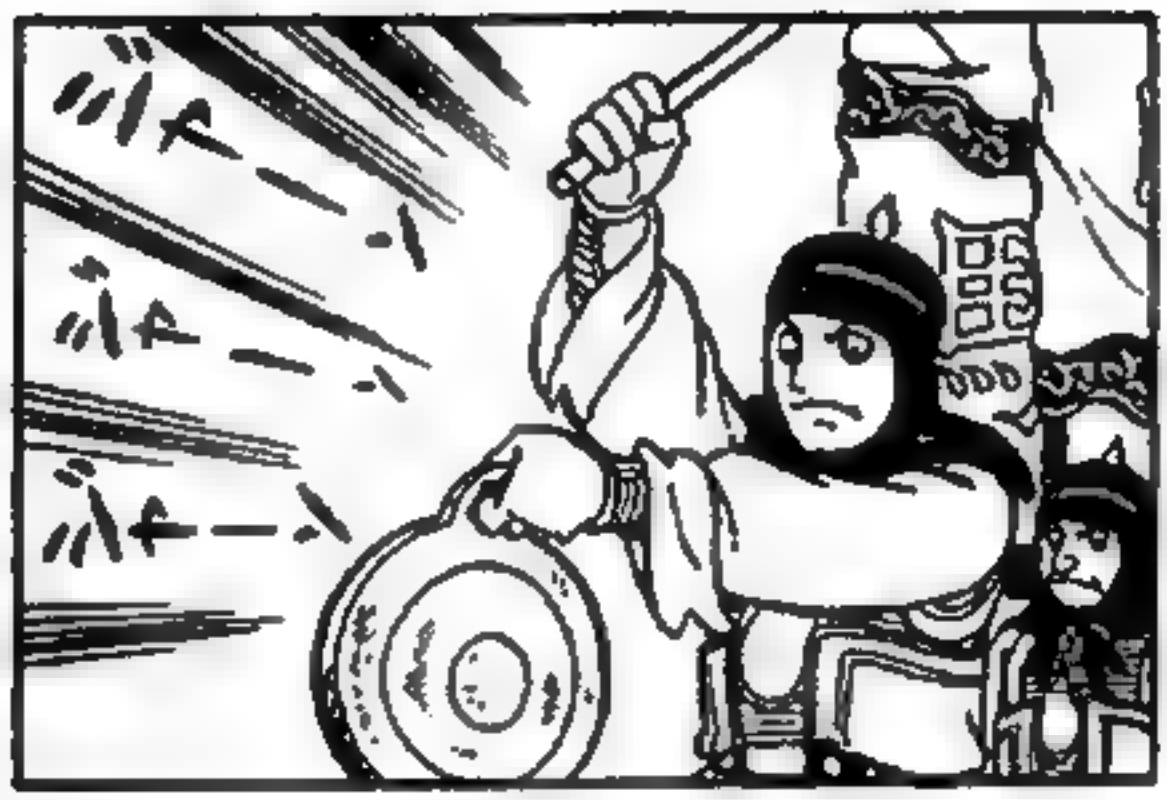
OH, VERY WELL. IF YOU FEEL THAT STRONGLY ABOUT IT, THEN PLEASE ACCOMPANY OUR LORD TO JIAMENG PASS RIGHT AWAY.

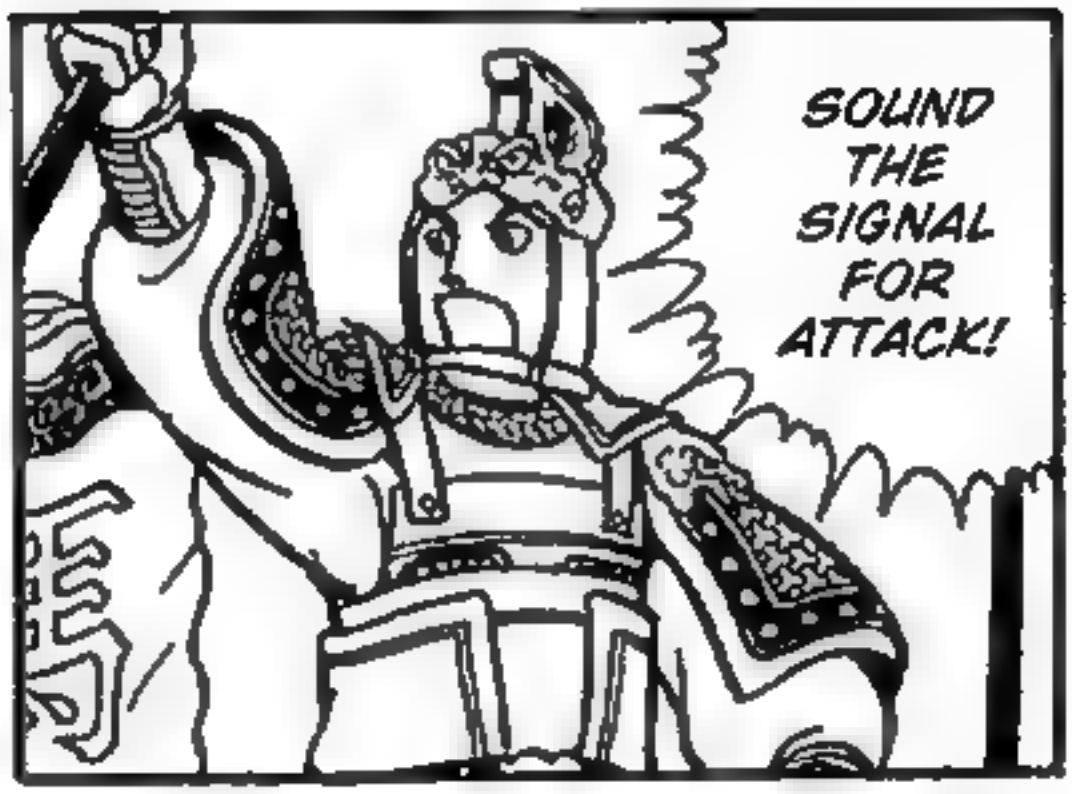
HAHAHA! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IF THIS MA CHAO IS AS STRONG AS HE'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

JIAMENG
PASS

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CAPTURE A PASS LIKE THAT WITH NO PROBLEM AT ALL.


SO THAT'S JIAMENG PASS?




SOUND THE SIGNAL FOR ATTACK!

OPEN THE GATES! WE WILL MEET THEM HEAD-ON!

THE ENEMIES ARE COMING!

REMEMBER THE NAME WEI YAN AS YOU DIE!

HM?

WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS THERE NO ONE THAT CAN PUT UP A DECENT FIGHT!?

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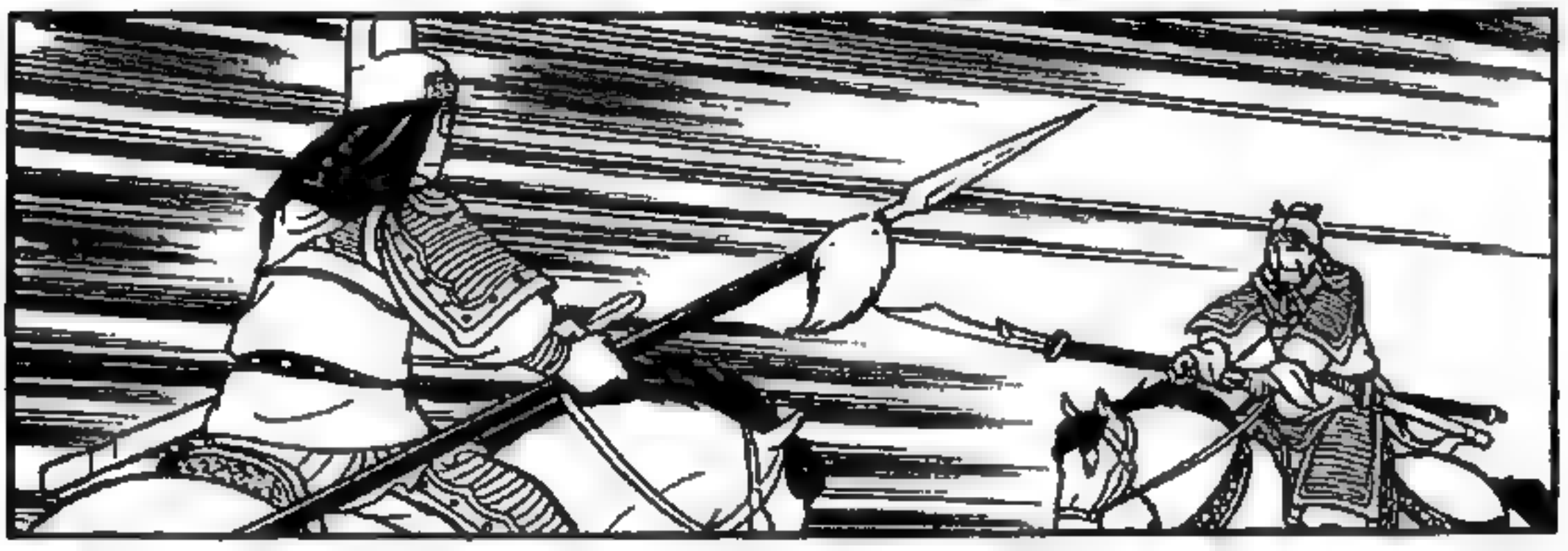
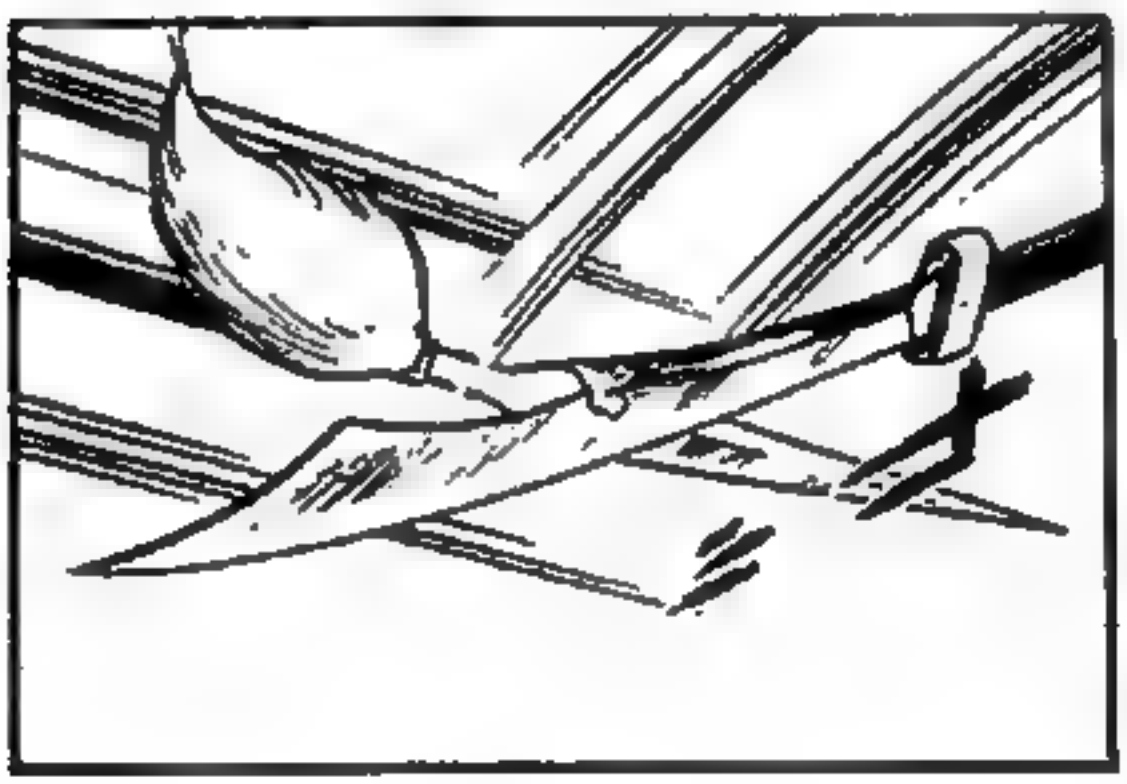
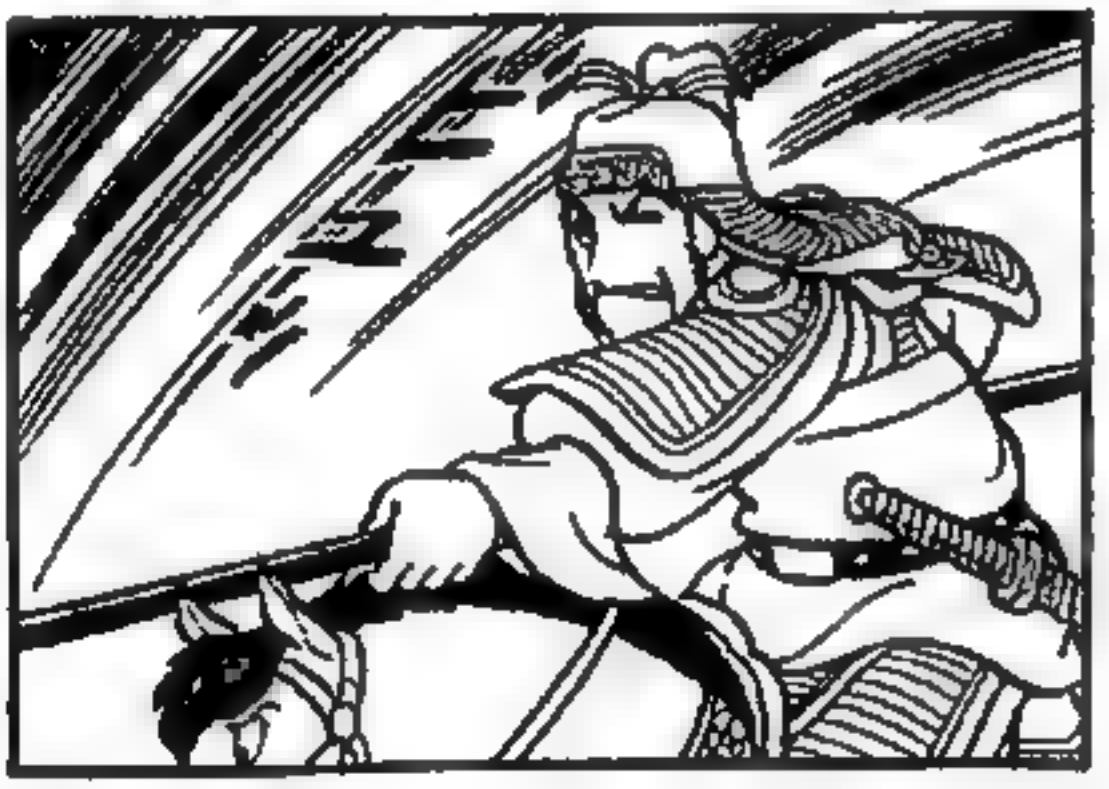
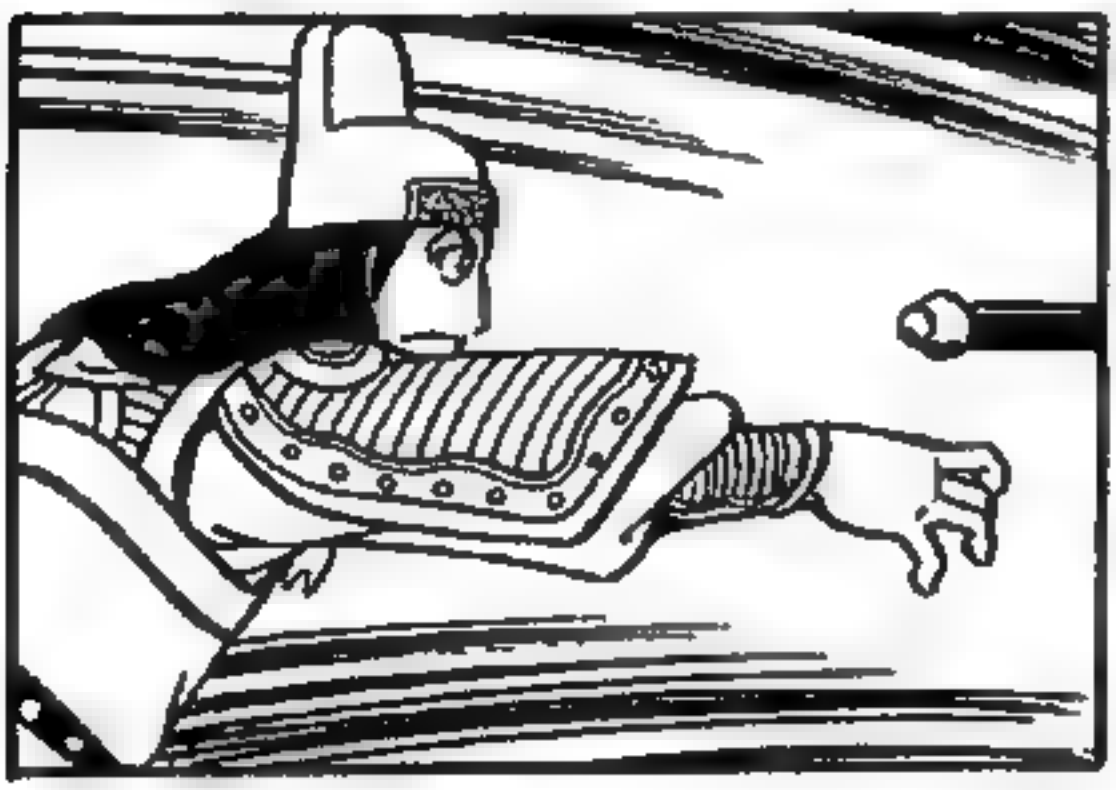
YOU MUST BE THE FAMOUS MA CHAO, AREN'T YOU!?

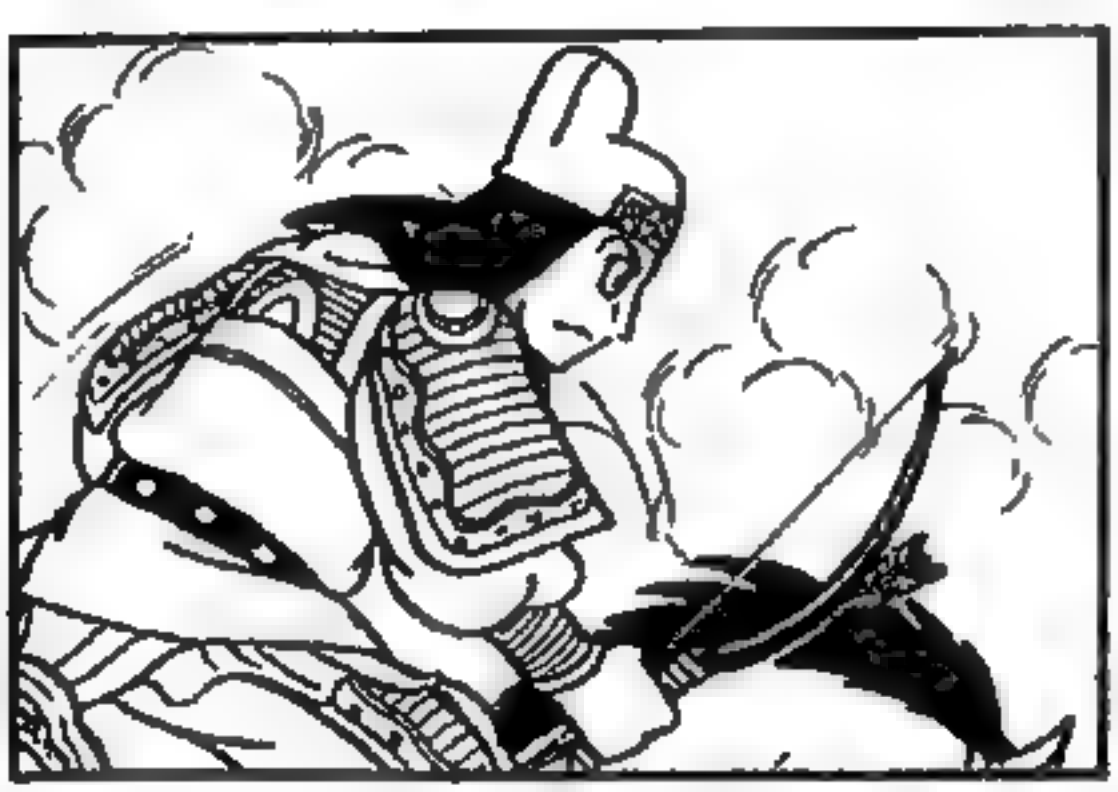






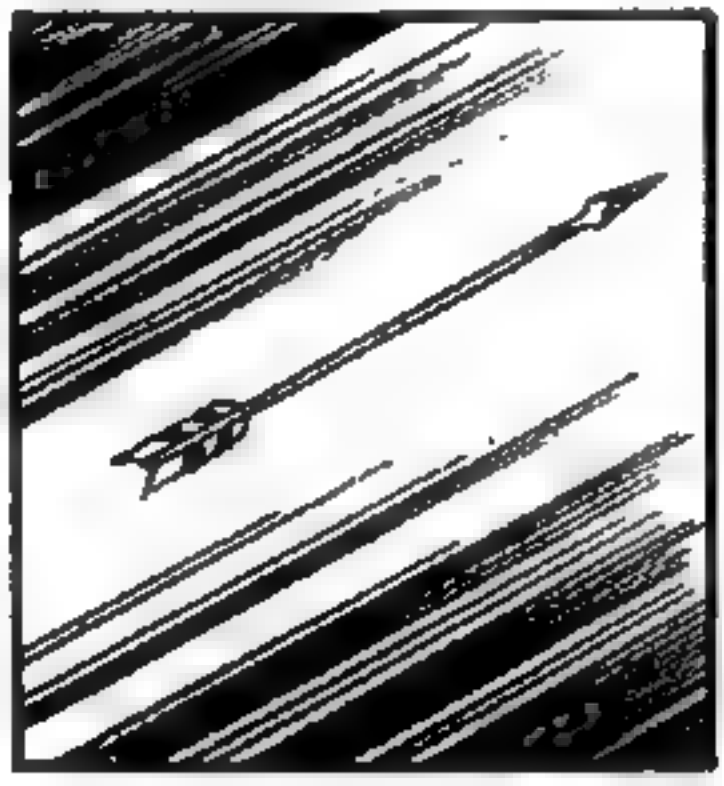


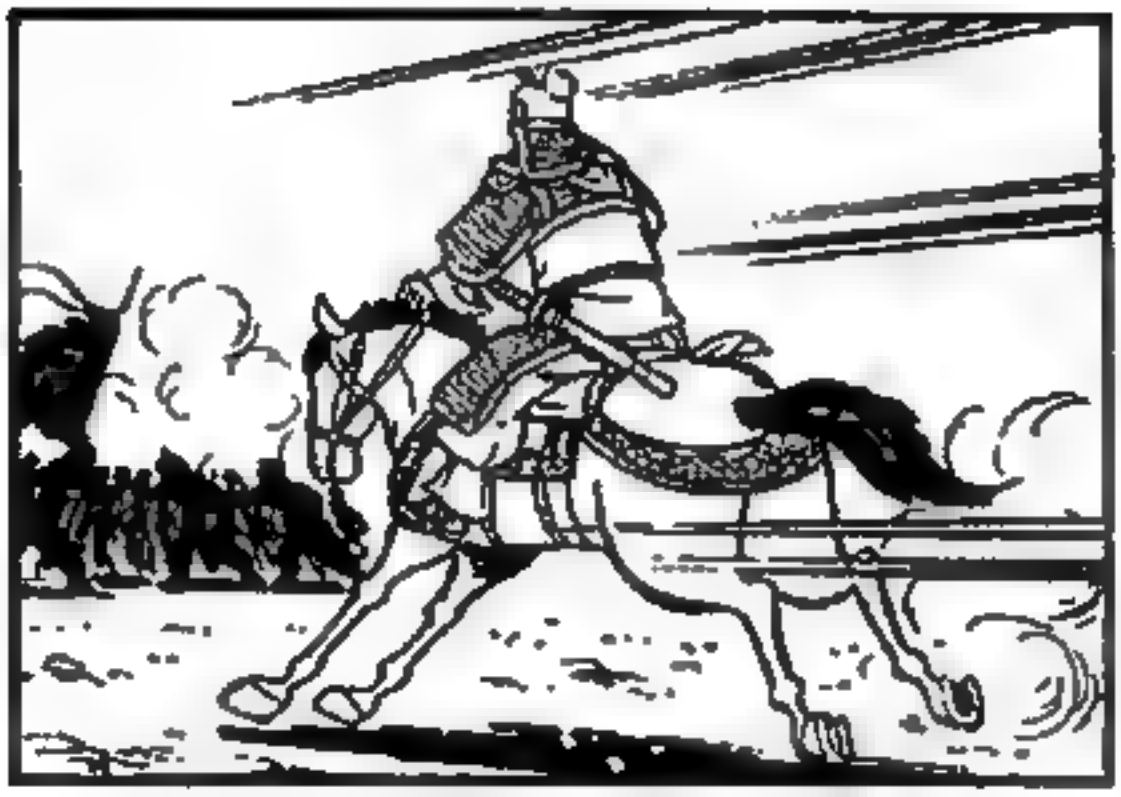
HE'S STRONGER THAN I EXPECTED...



AH!

AGH!





D-DAMN IT...

PRESS ON THE ATTACK!

HM?

YOU WON'T BE GETTING ANY FARTHER THAN THIS.

ZHANG FEI!?

THIS IS ZHANG FEI YOU'RE UP AGAINST.

THEN ARE YOU MA CHAO?

HA, HOW I'VE LONGED TO FIGHT YOU SINCE HEARING YOUR DEEDS!

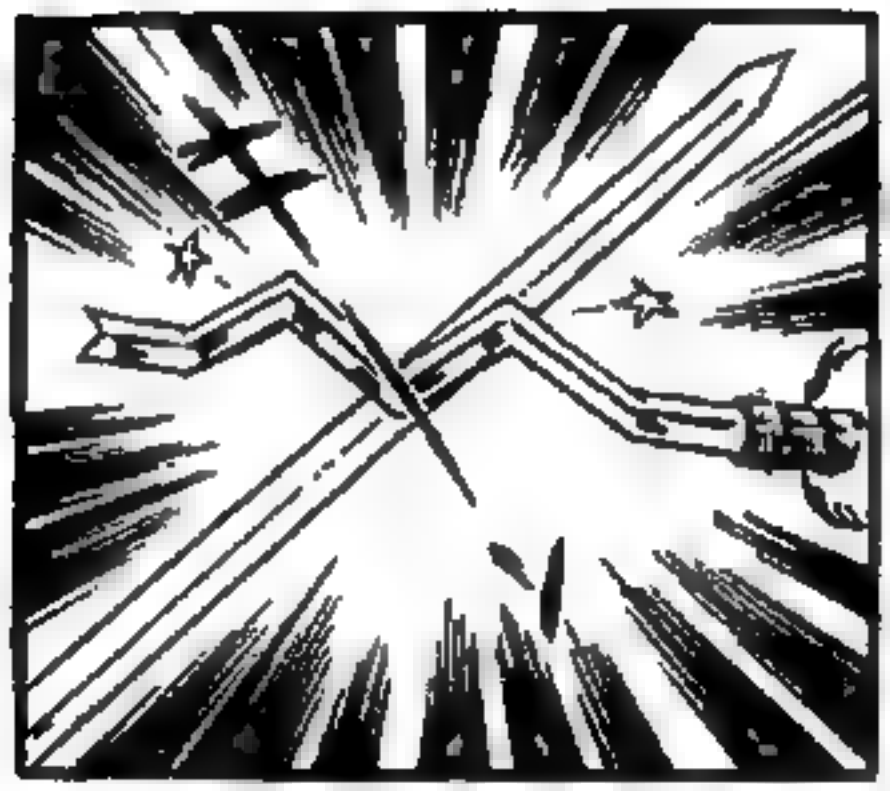
MA DAI?

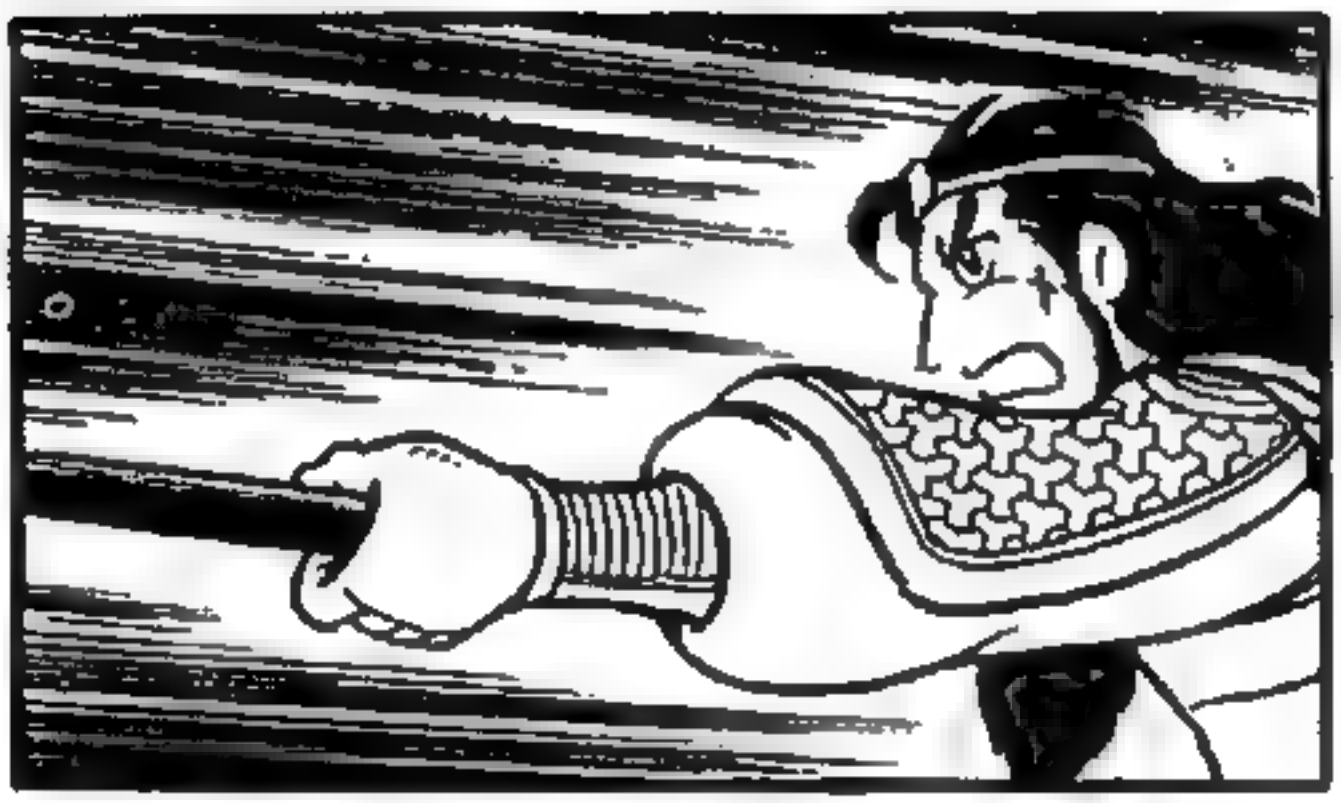
NO, BUT I AM HIS NEPHEW MA DAI!

SAY THAT AFTER YOU'VE HAD A TASTE OF MY BLADE!

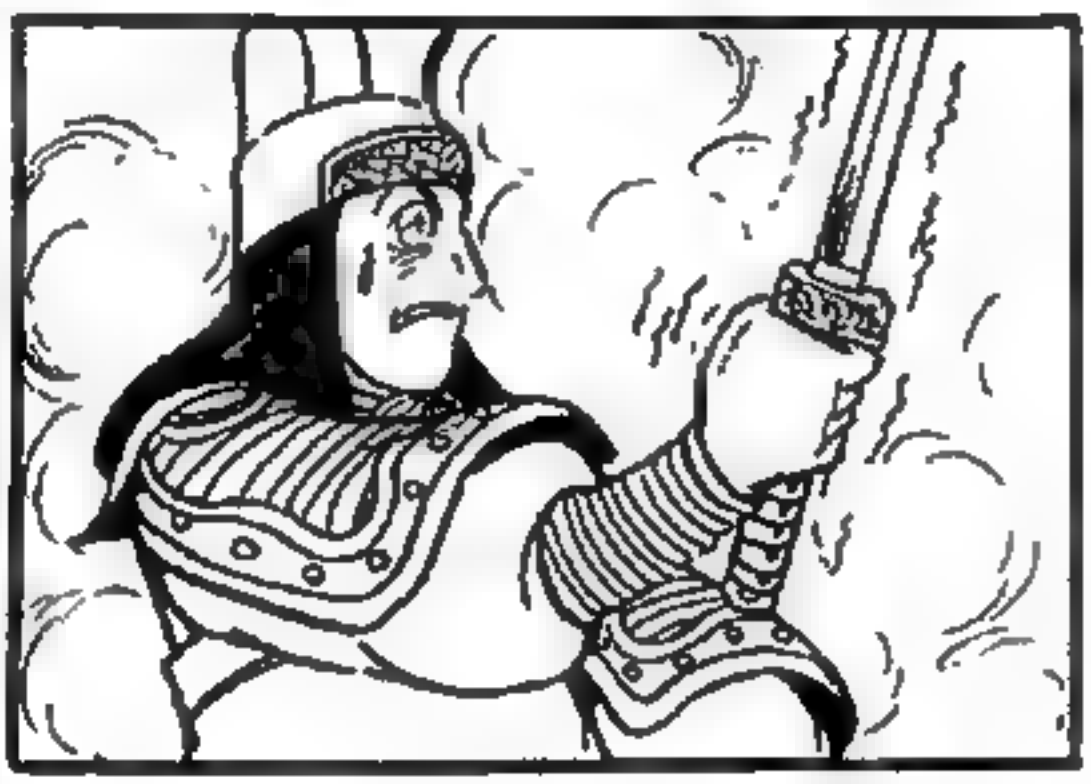
WHAT!?

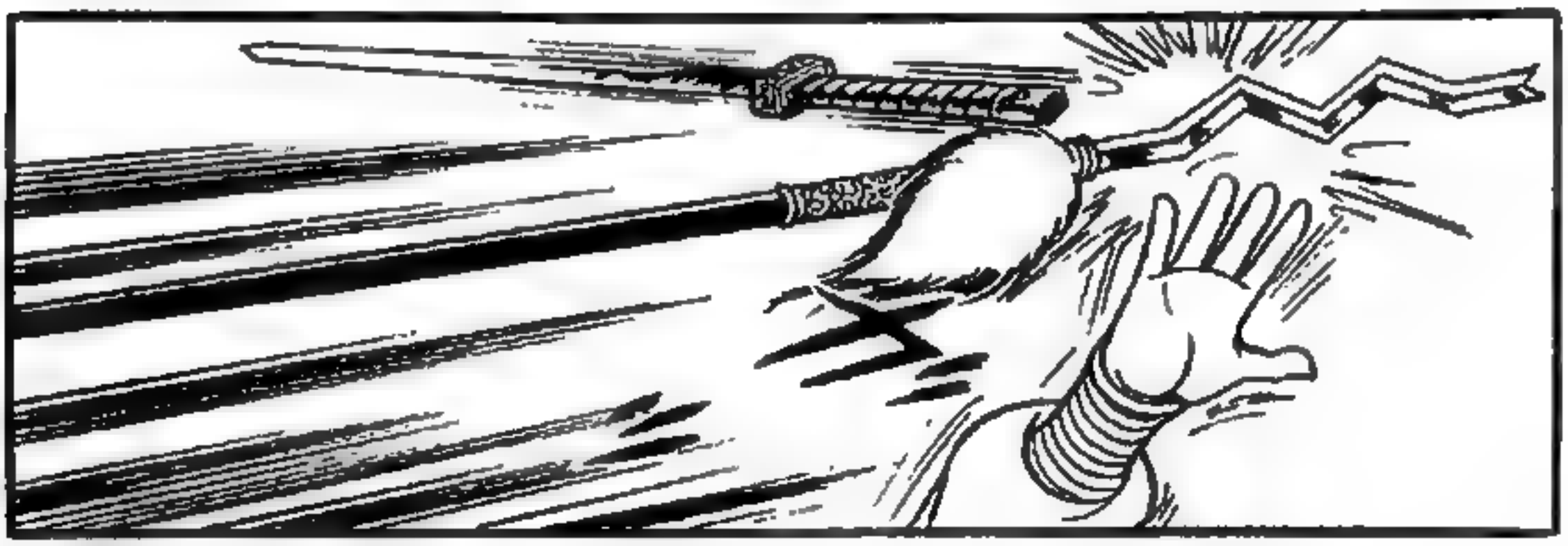
YOU EXPECT ME TO GET FIRED UP FIGHTING SOME NO-NAME? GO CALL MA CHAO AT ONCE.

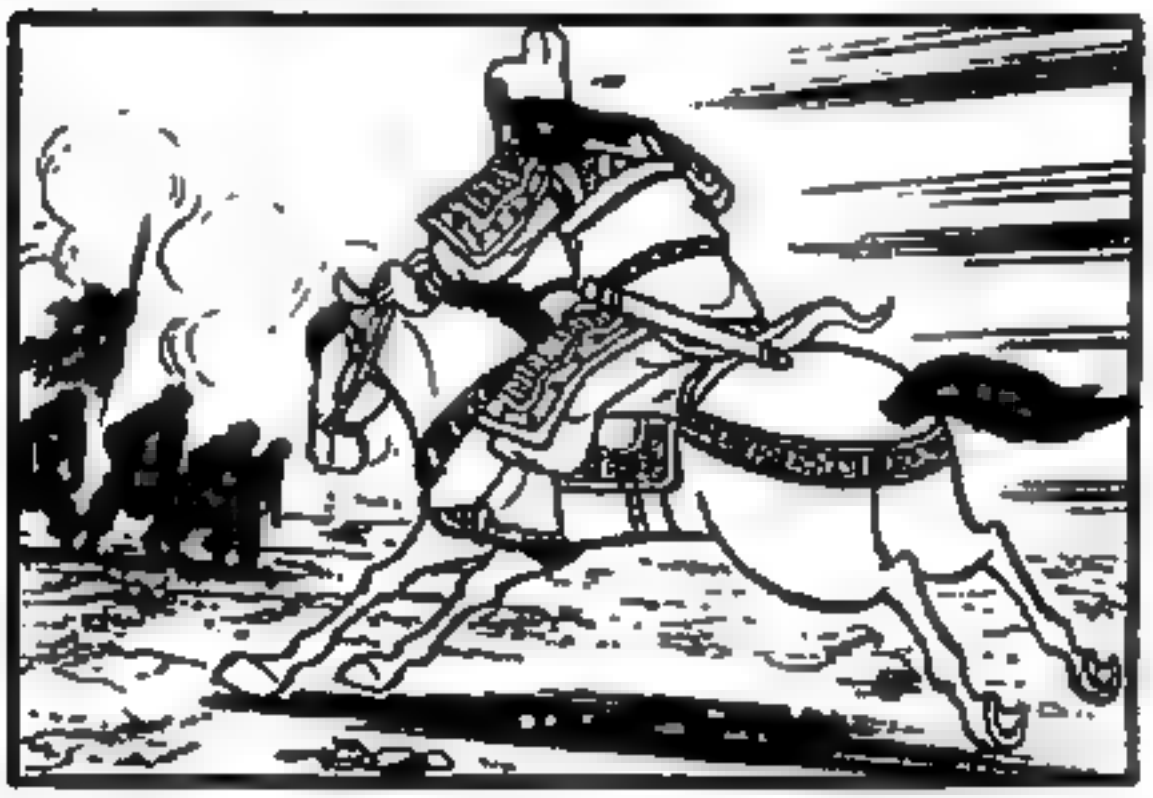




HAHH!





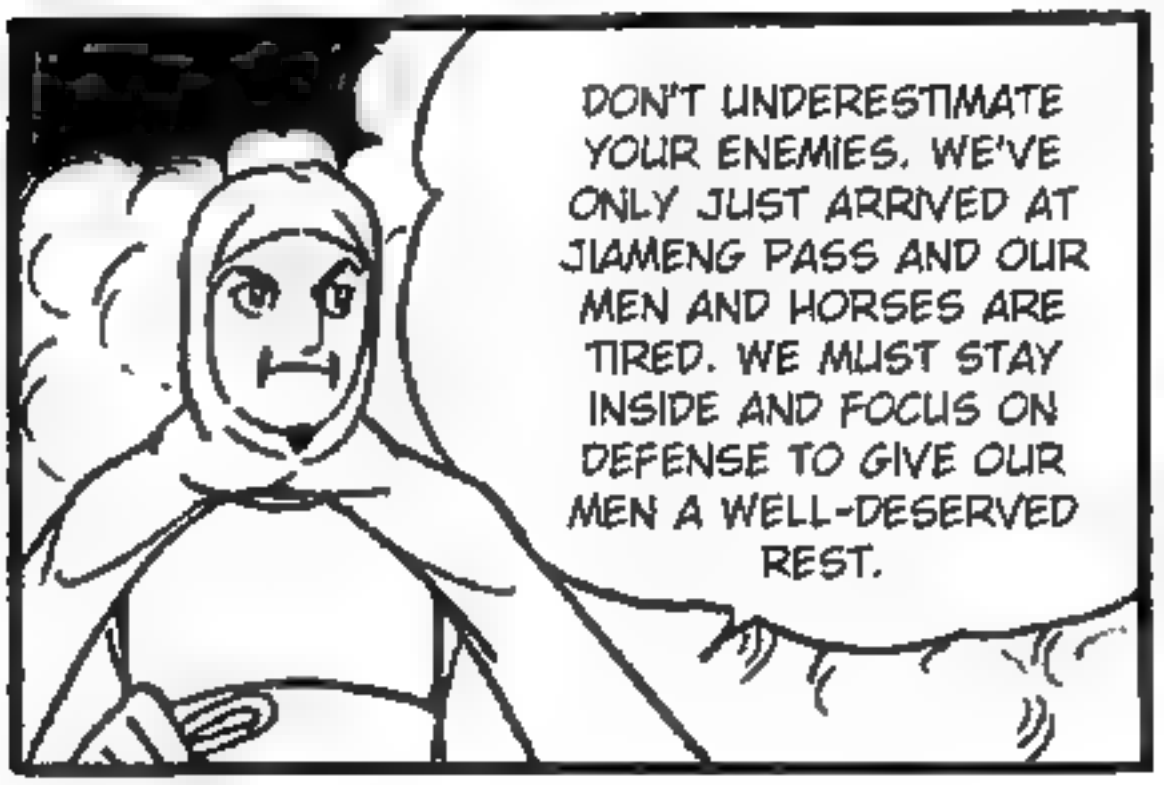


AGHHH!

ZHANG FEI, WAIT!

WHAT'S WRONG? LEAVE YOUR HEAD BEHIND AT LEAST IF YOU WANT TO RETREAT!

MY LORD! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE OUT ALONE?


DON'T UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ENEMIES. WE'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED AT JIAMENG PASS AND OUR MEN AND HORSES ARE TIRED. WE MUST STAY INSIDE AND FOCUS ON DEFENSE TO GIVE OUR MEN A WELL-DESERVED REST.

I CAME TO STOP YOUR IMPULSIVE TEMPER.

RIGHT.

THIS IS ENOUGH FIGHTING FOR TODAY. LET US WITHDRAW.

張
張
WITHDRAW BACK TO JIAMENG PASS!

ARE YOU TOO AFRAID TO COME OUT AFTER HEARING MY NAME!?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, COWARDS!? THIS IS MA CHAO!

ZHANG FEI, WE MUST NOT GO OUT RIGHT NOW.

SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTH OR I'LL CLOSE IT FOR YOU!

WHY NOT!?

I HAVE TO SAY, HE CERTAINLY IS A GALLANT YOUNG MAN.

GOING OUT IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT US TO DO.

SPLENDID, MY ASS...

WITH THAT SILVER ARMOUR, HIS LION HELMET, AND HIS YOUTHFUL, ENERGETIC FACE, IT IS NO WONDER THE PEOPLE HAVE NICKNAMED HIM, "MA CHAO THE SPLENDID."

WHAT!?

ZHANG FEI! I HEAR YOU WERE DYING TO FIGHT ME YESTERDAY BUT HAS SEEING ME IN PERSON SCARED YOU OUT OF YOUR WITS!?

YOU DARE THINK I WOULD COWER FROM THE LIKES OF YOU!?

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TURN OUT TO BE A YELLOW-BELLIED COWARD. YOU DISAPPOINT ME.

IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE!

THEN ARE YOU WILLING TO FIGHT ME IN A 1 ON 1 DUEL!?

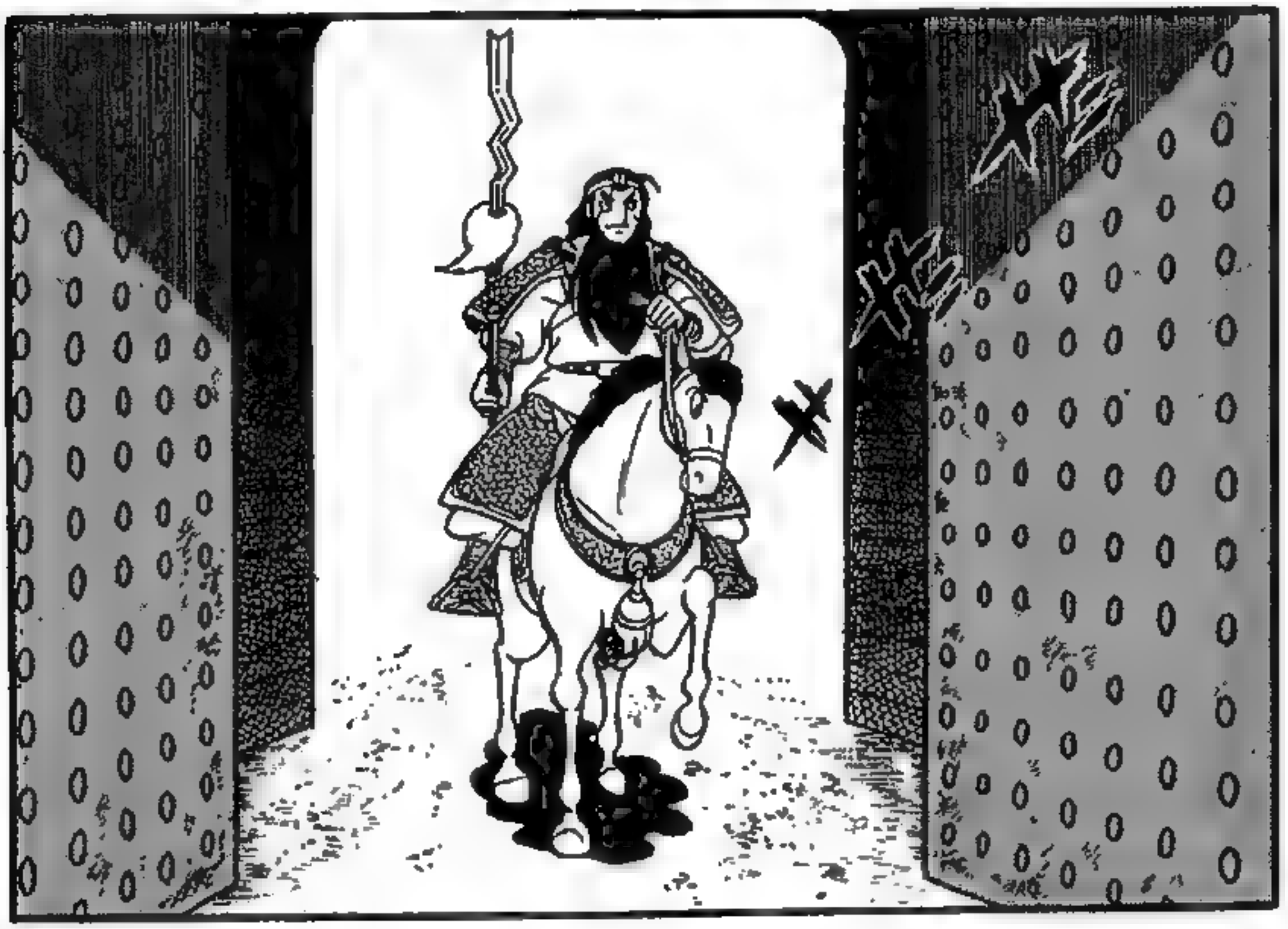
KNOWING YOU, I SUPPOSE IT'D BE FUTILE TO EVEN TRY TO STOP YOU.

BROTHER! PLEASE ALLOW ME TO FIGHT THAT ARROGANT YOUNGSTER! I CANNOT TAKE THIS ANY LONGER!

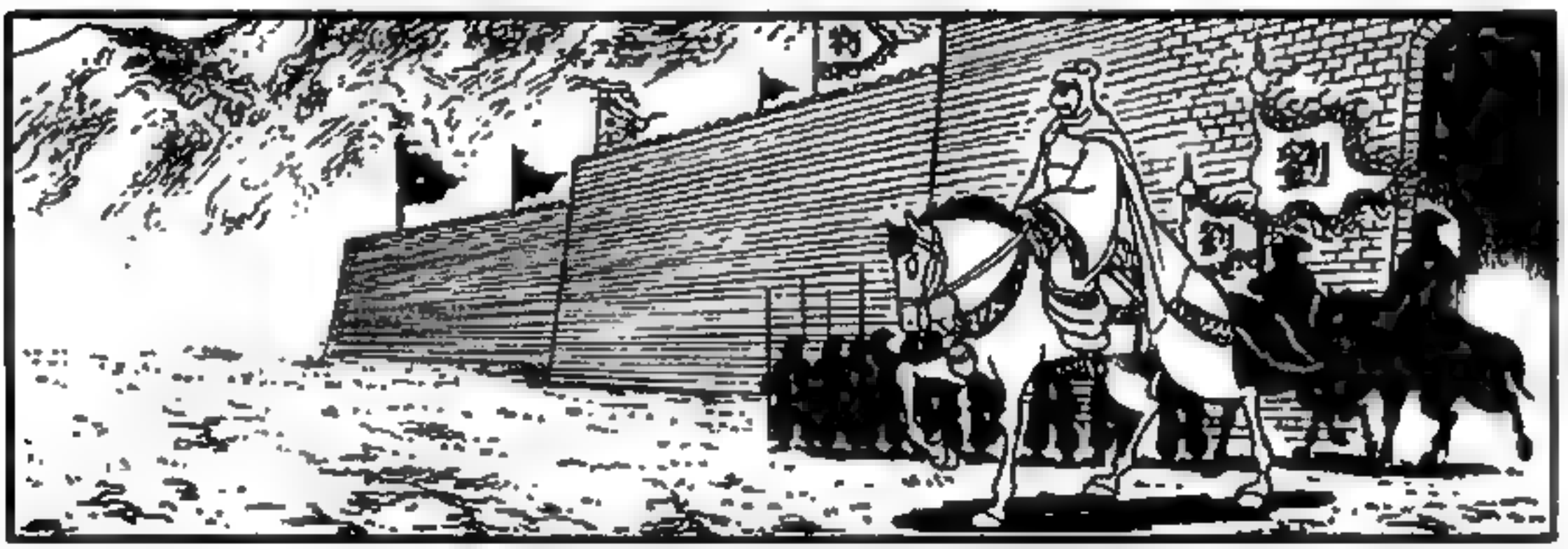
JUST YOU WAIT, MA CHAO...

THANK YOU. FINALLY, I CAN SHUT THAT BRAGGART UP!
VERY WELL, I GRANT YOU PERMISSION.

OPEN THE GATES!



LET US GO OUT TO ENSURE THE ENEMIES DON'T TRY TO PULL OFF SOME UNDER-HANDED TRICK.

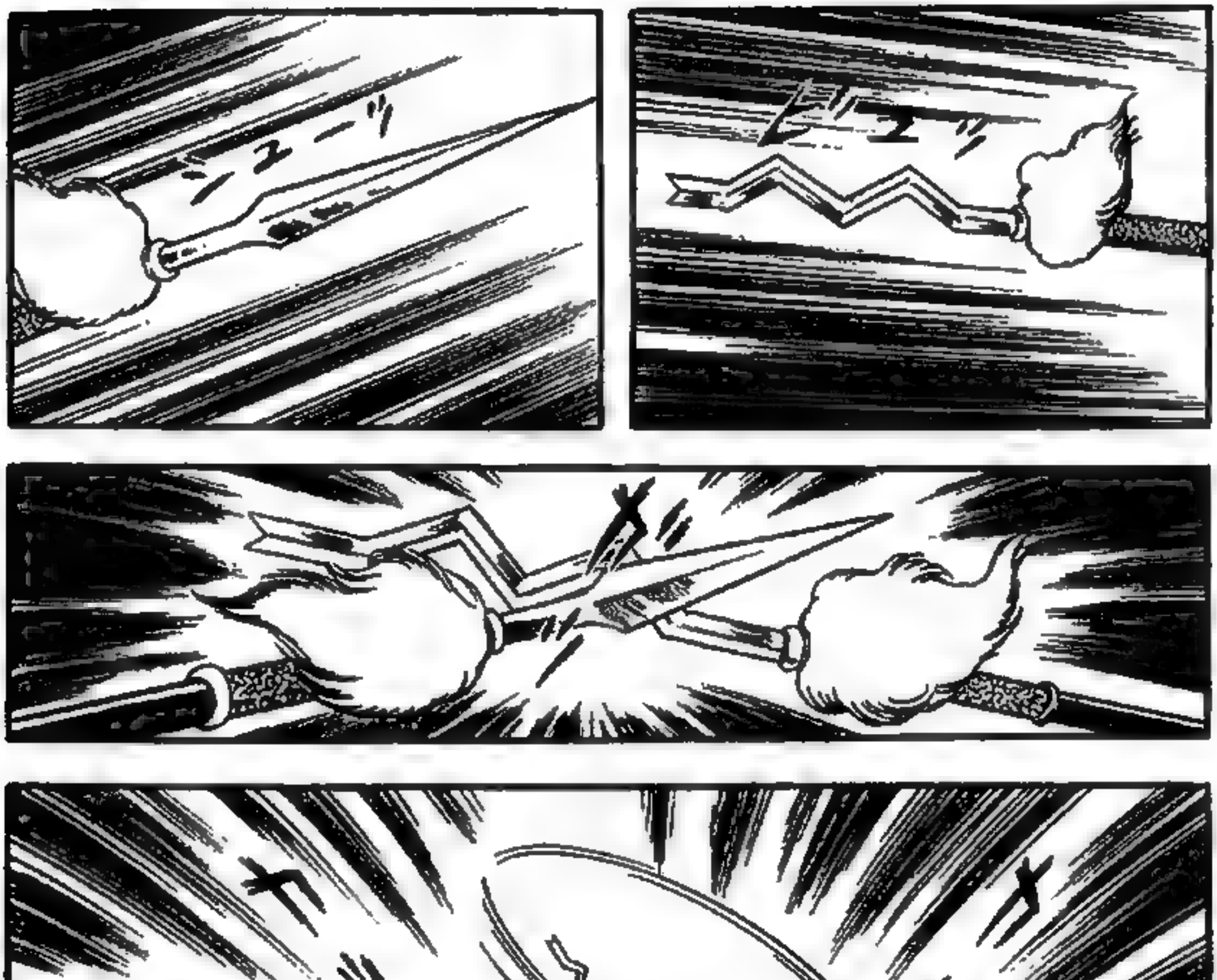


HAHA! MY FAMILY HAVE BEEN PROUD NOBLES FOR GENERATIONS. YOU EXPECT ME TO BE UP-TO-DATE WITH EVERY PEASANT WHO HAS MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF!?

I AM ZHANG FEI OF YAN. I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF MY DEEDS, RIGHT?

AS WILL I!

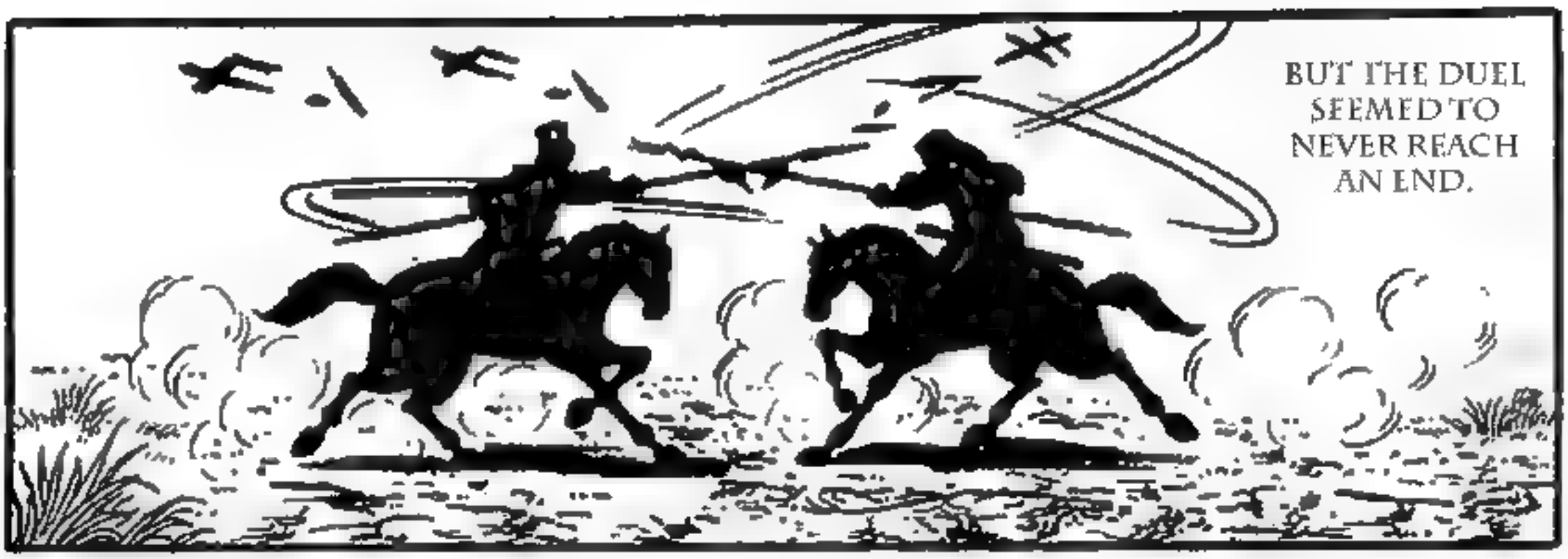
I'LL SHUT THAT FOUL-MOUTH OF YOURS FOR GOOD!

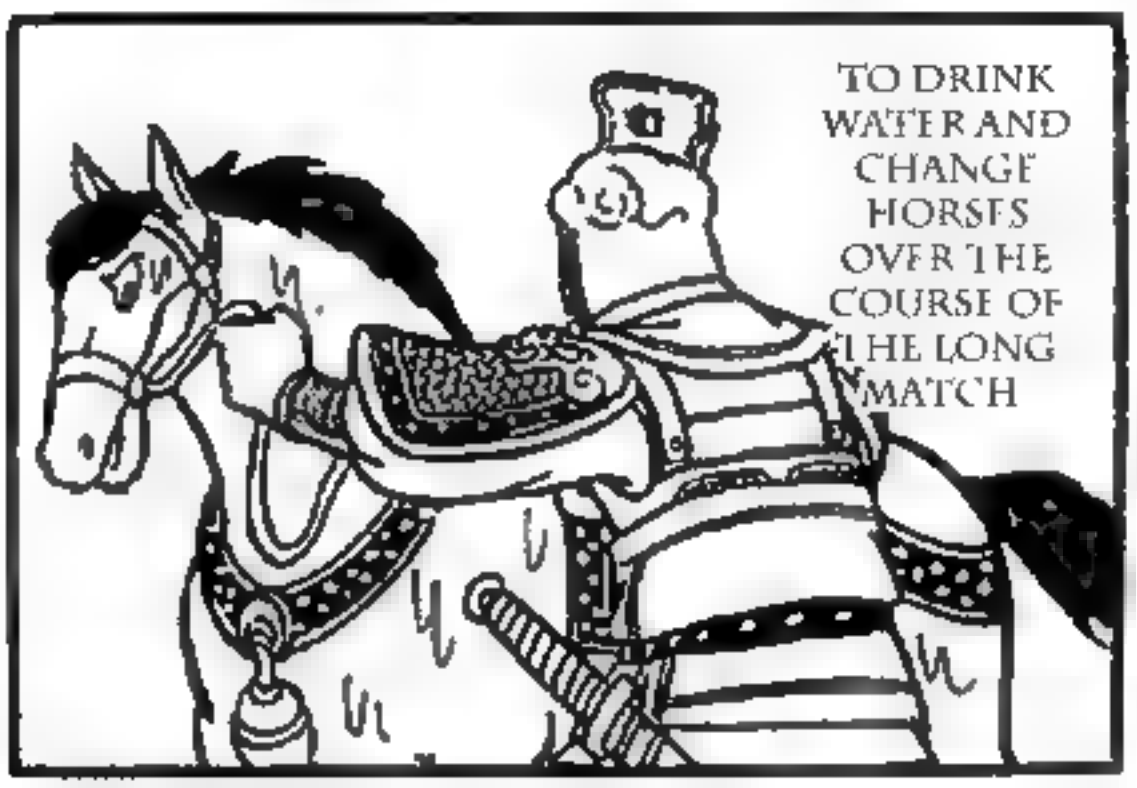


IT WAS THE VERY SIGHT OF A DUEL BETWEEN A DRAGON AND A TIGER, FIERCE ENOUGH TO STIR BLACK CLOUDS AND CALL FORTH STORM-WINDS.

AND WATCHED SILENTLY

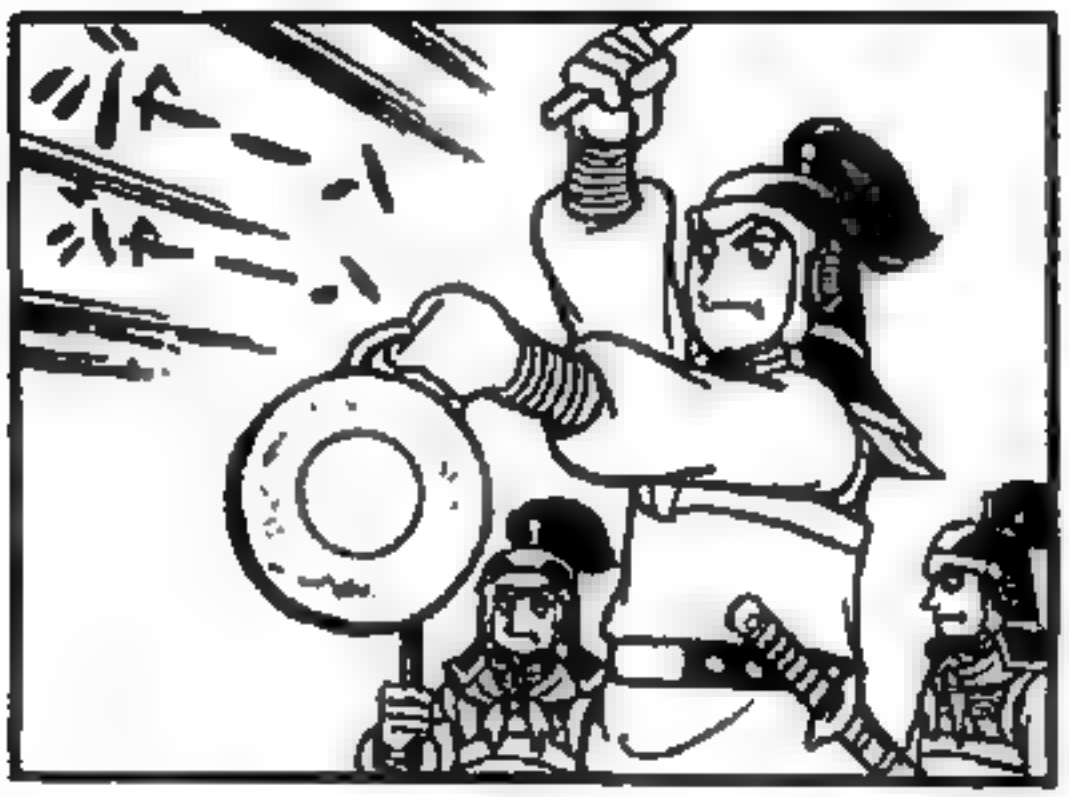
BOTH SIDES HELD THEIR BREATH.


BUT THE DUEL SEEMED TO NEVER REACH AN END.

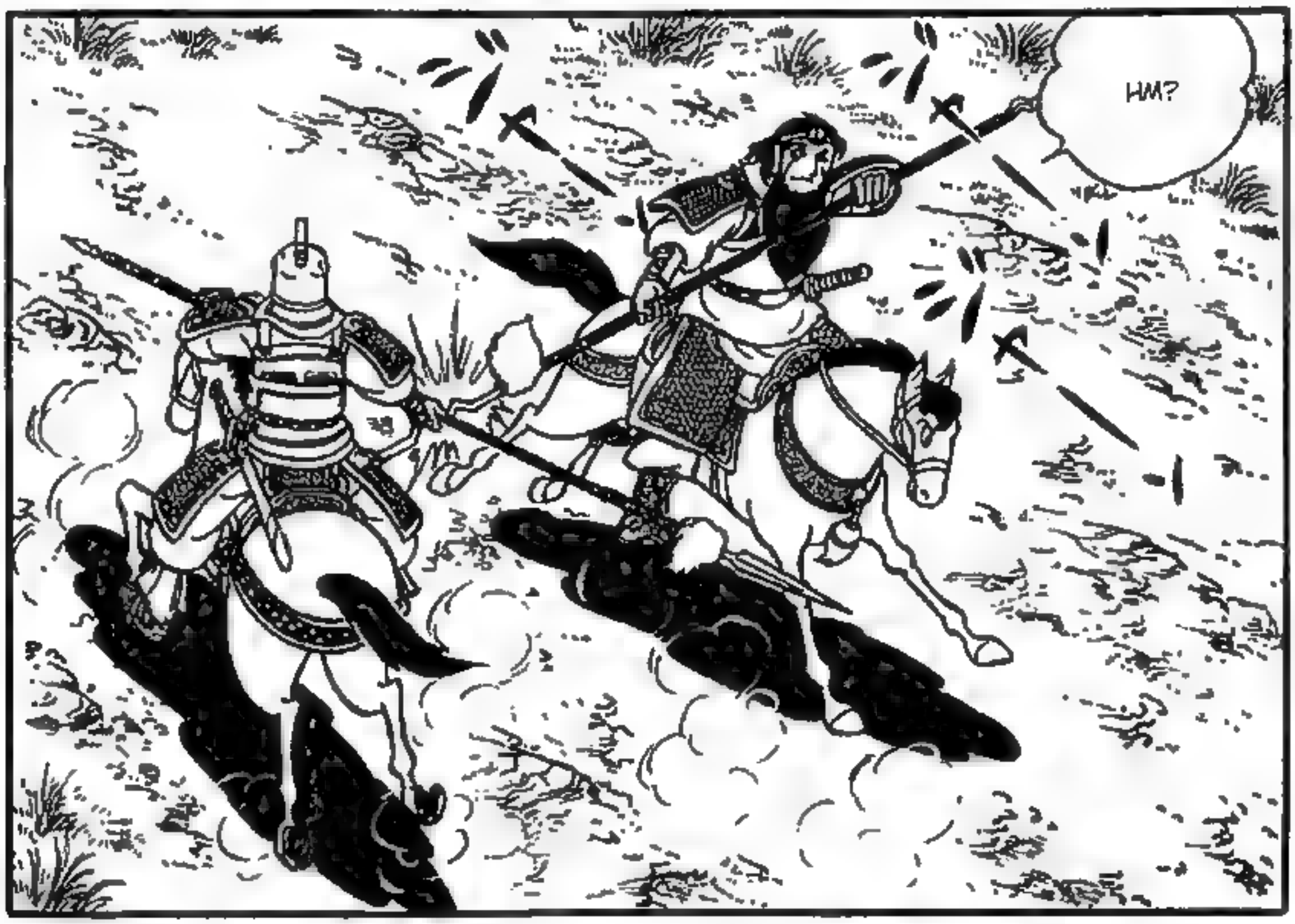

TO DRINK WATER AND CHANGE HORSES OVER THE COURSE OF THE LONG MATCH

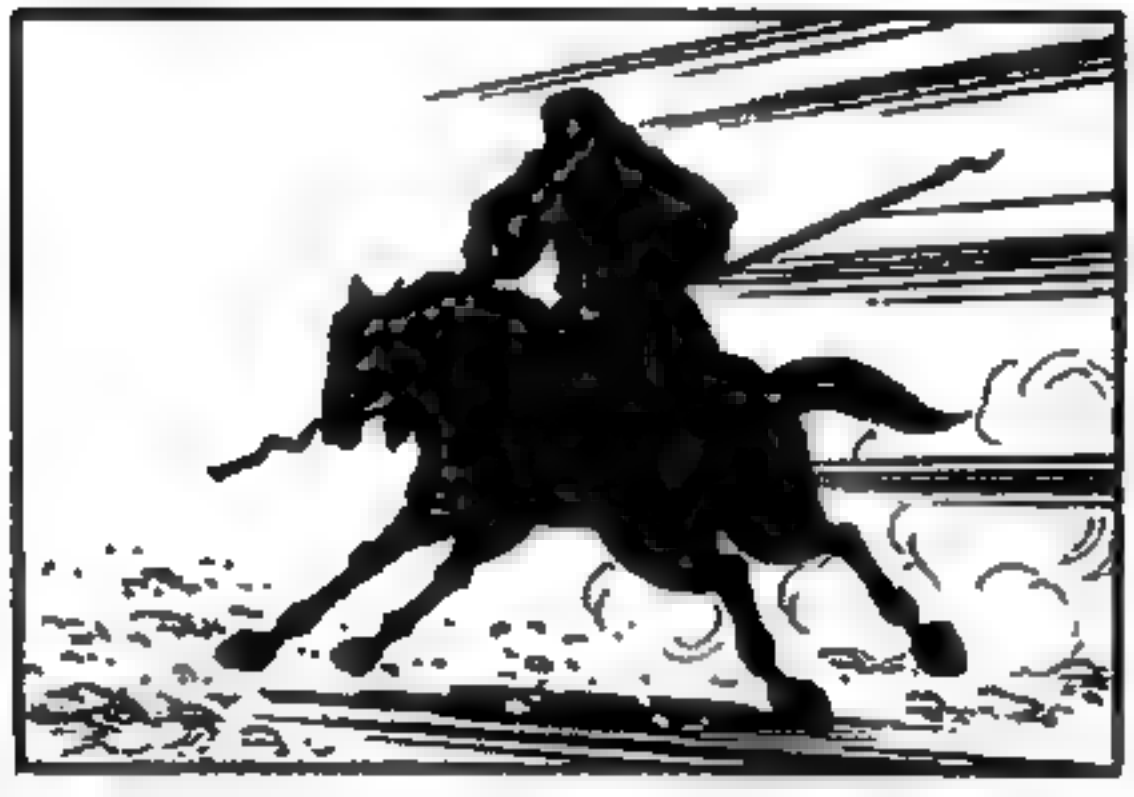
BOTH FIGHTERS TOOK SEVERAL BREAKS.

THE STALEMATE CONTINUED EVEN AS THE SUN BEGAN TO SET.



YES, SIR.
IT'LL SOON BE TOO DARK TO FIGHT. CALL OFF THE FIGHT FOR NOW.


HM?



WAIT A WHILE. MY LORD CALLS FOR ME.

A DUEL CANNOT CONTINUE IN THE DARK. IT IS BEST TO CALL IT A DAY FOR NOW.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MY LORD?

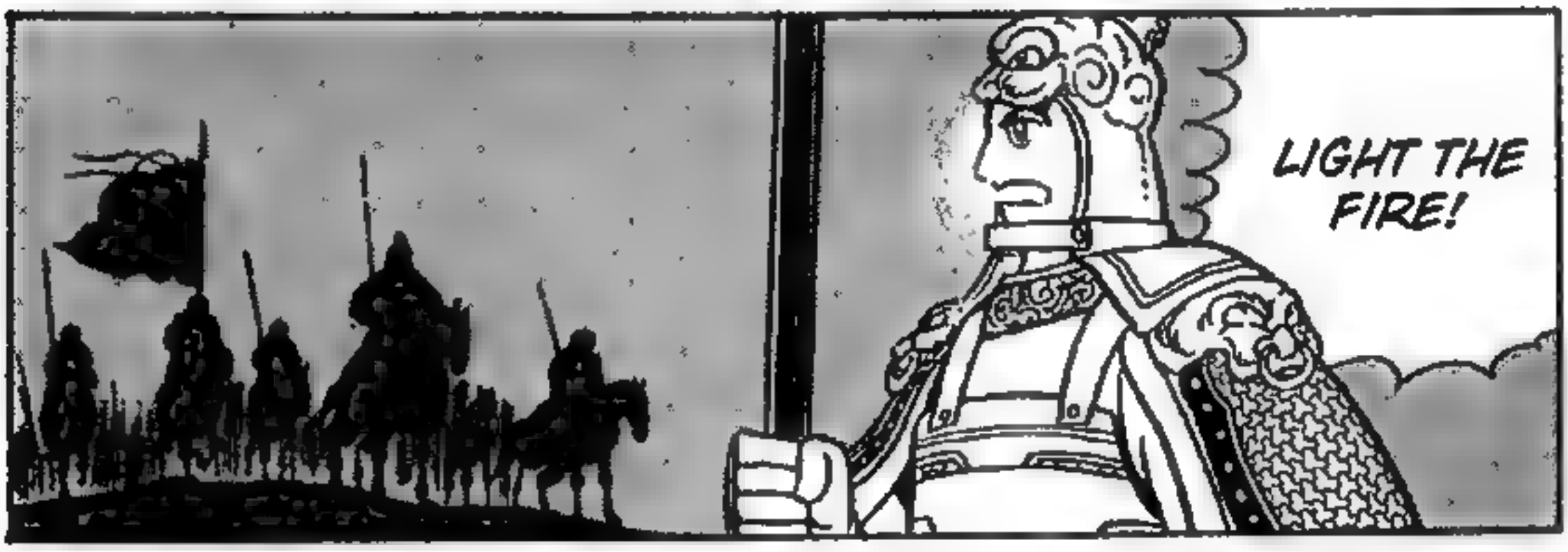
MA CHAO! LET US RESUME OUR MATCH TOMORROW!

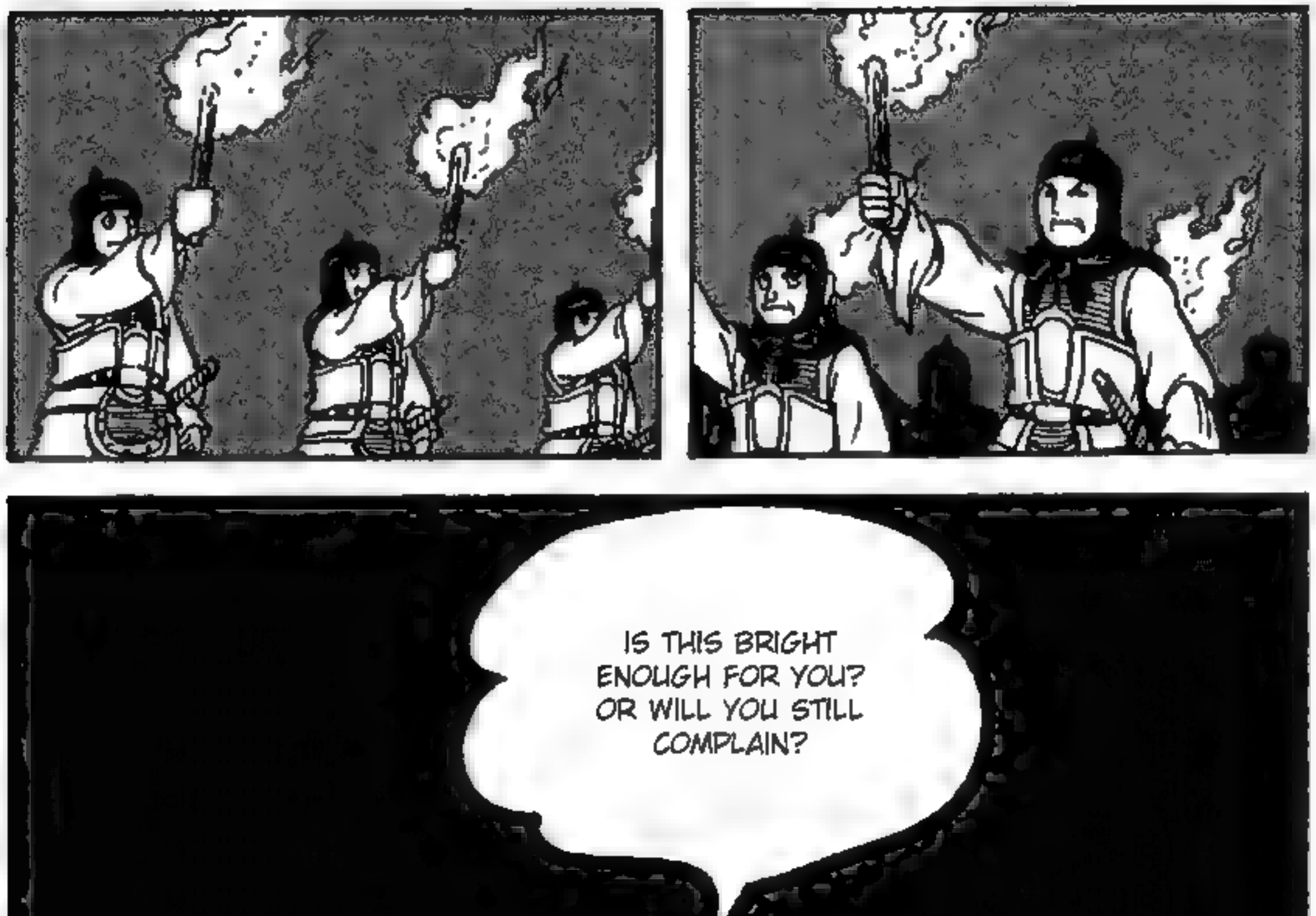
YES, MY LORD...

RUNNING AWAY!?

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RETREATING TODAY WITHOUT YOUR HEAD!
I'VE ALREADY MADE PREPARA-TIONS FOR THAT!

I AM NOT RUNNING AWAY BUT A DUEL CANNOT BE HELD IN THE DARK!


LIGHT THE FIRE!

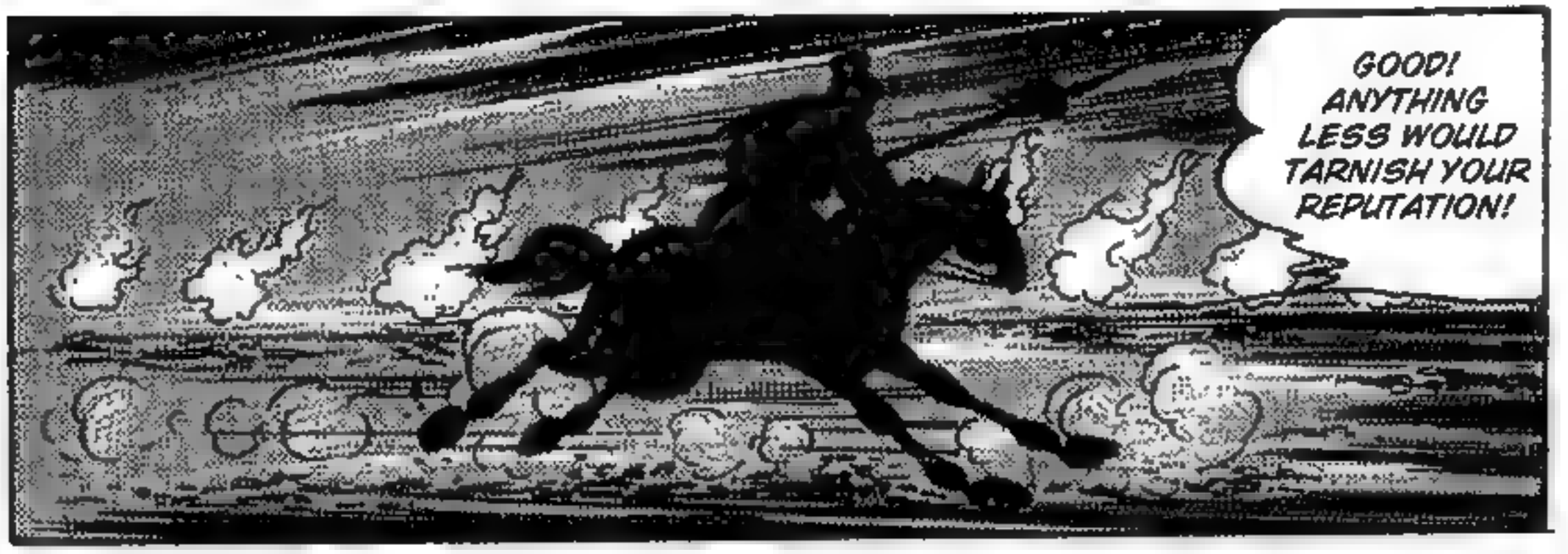

IS THIS BRIGHT ENOUGH FOR YOU? OR WILL YOU STILL COMPLAIN?

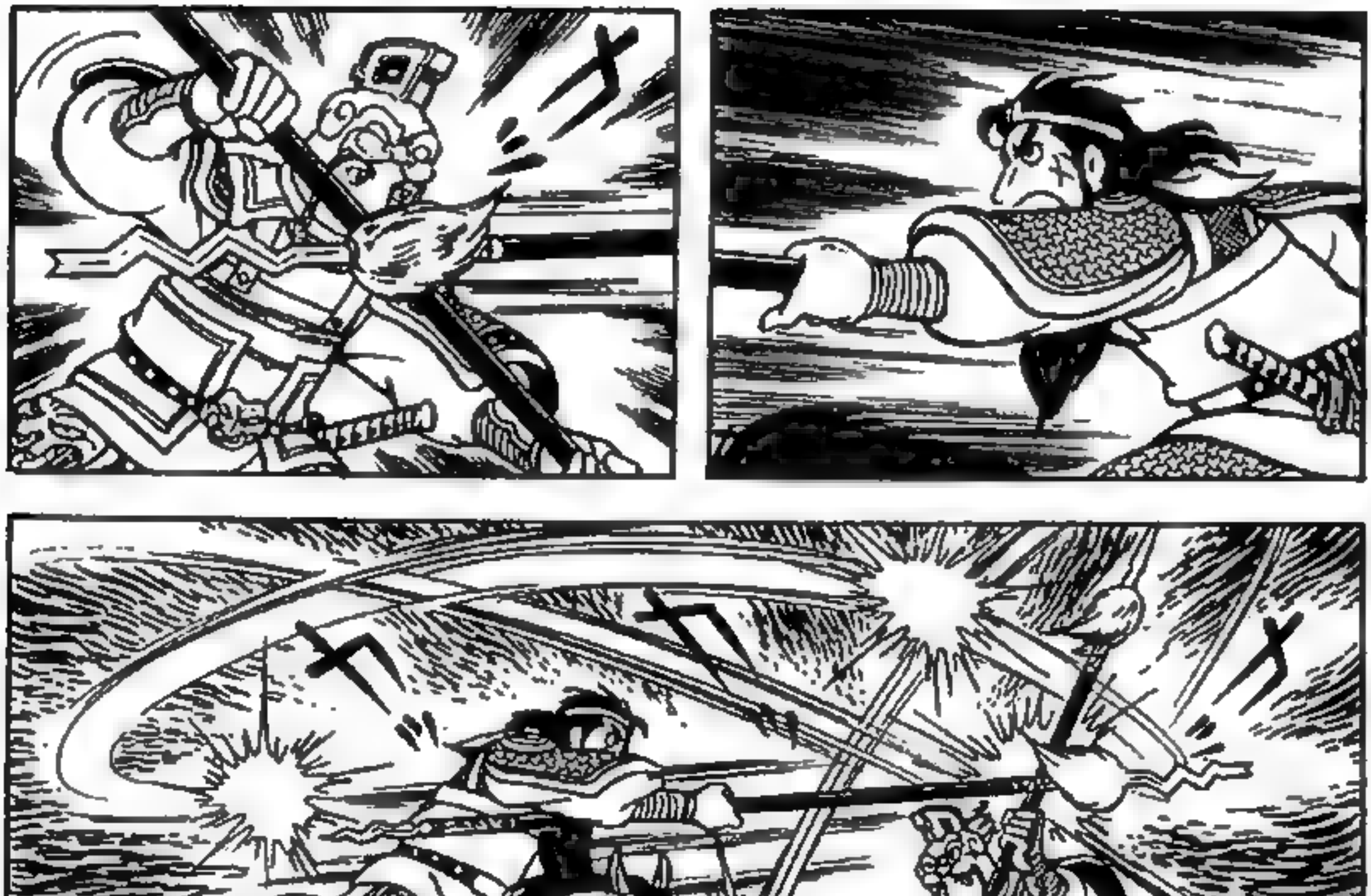
ZHANG FEI, STOP!

THAT SON OF A...

HERE I COME, MA CHAO!

NO, MY LORD, I WILL NOT STOP UNTIL I BRING HIM BACK ALIVE TO JIAMENG PASS!


GOOD! ANYTHING LESS WOULD TARNISH YOUR REPUTATION!



MY LORD!

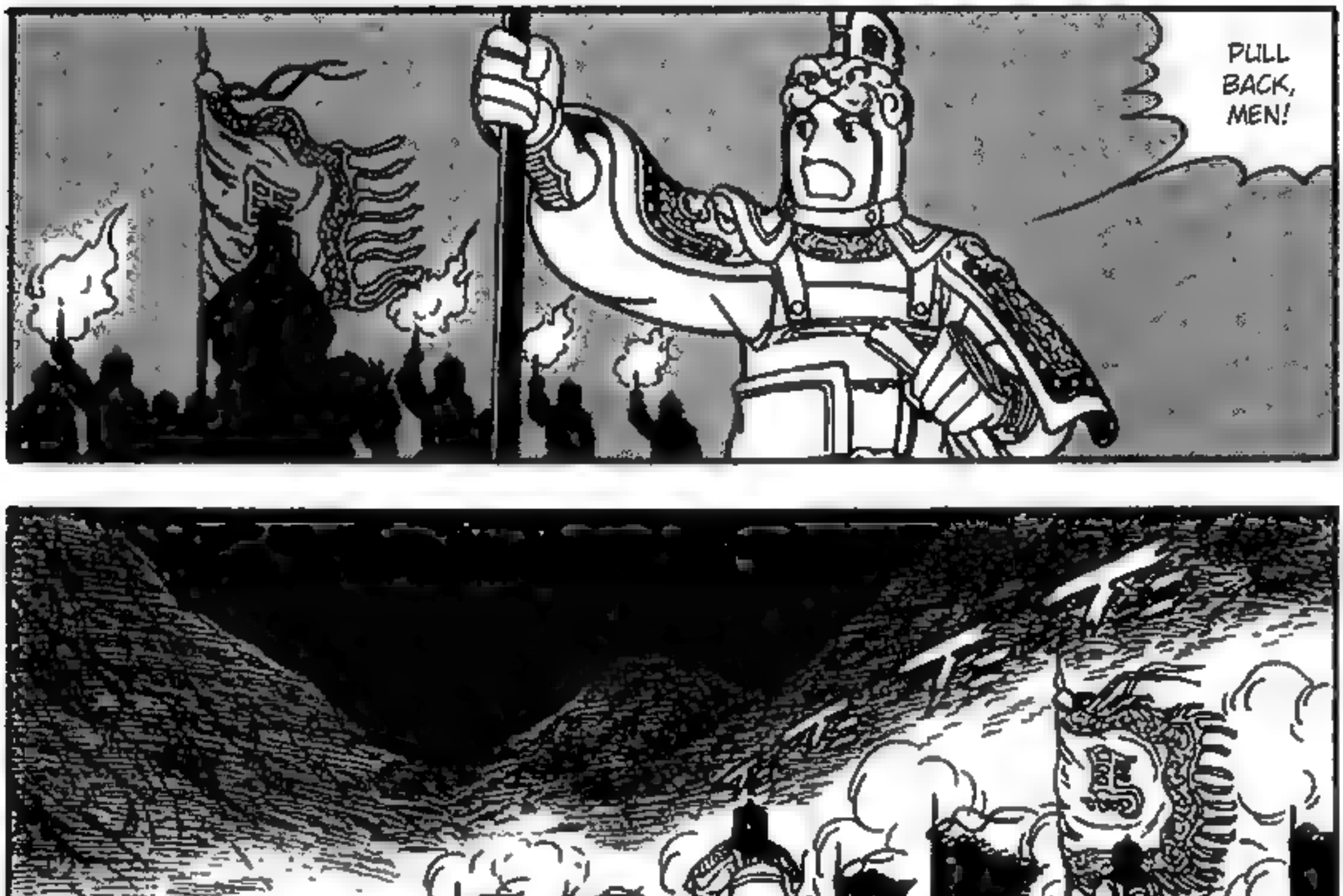
CEASE THIS FIGHT, YOU TWO!

AND I SWEAR TO YOU THAT I HAVE NEVER ONCE ABANDONED MY PRINCIPLES. IF YOU WITHDRAW FOR TODAY, I PROMISE YOU THAT WE WILL QUIETLY WITHDRAW AS WELL.

MA CHAO, I AM LIU BEI XUANDE. I PRIDE MYSELF TO BE A MAN OF VIRTUE,

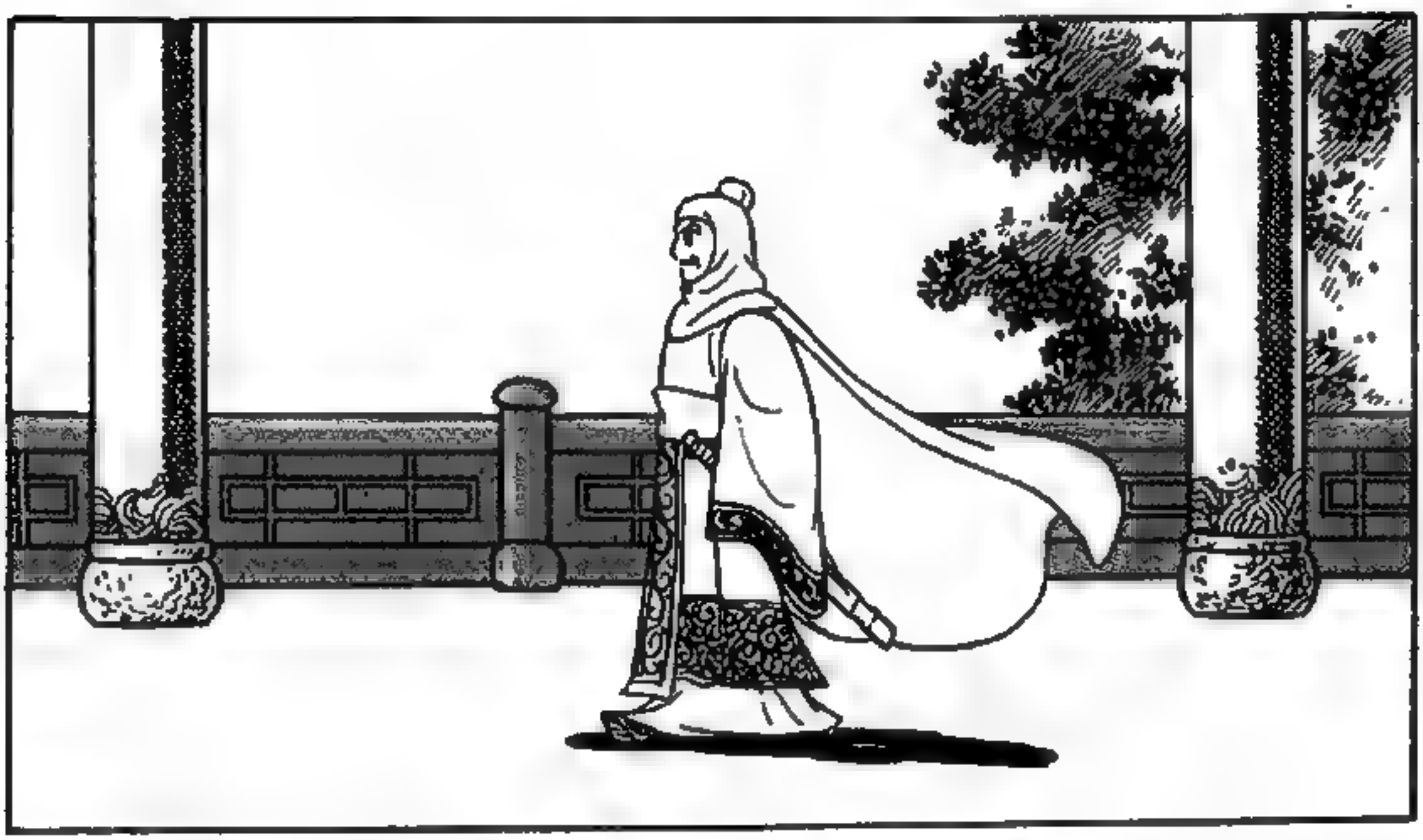
FINE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO UNFAIRLY DISADVANTAGE ZHANG FEI BY MAKING HIM CONTINUE THE DUEL WHILE IGNORING HIS LORD'S ORDERS.

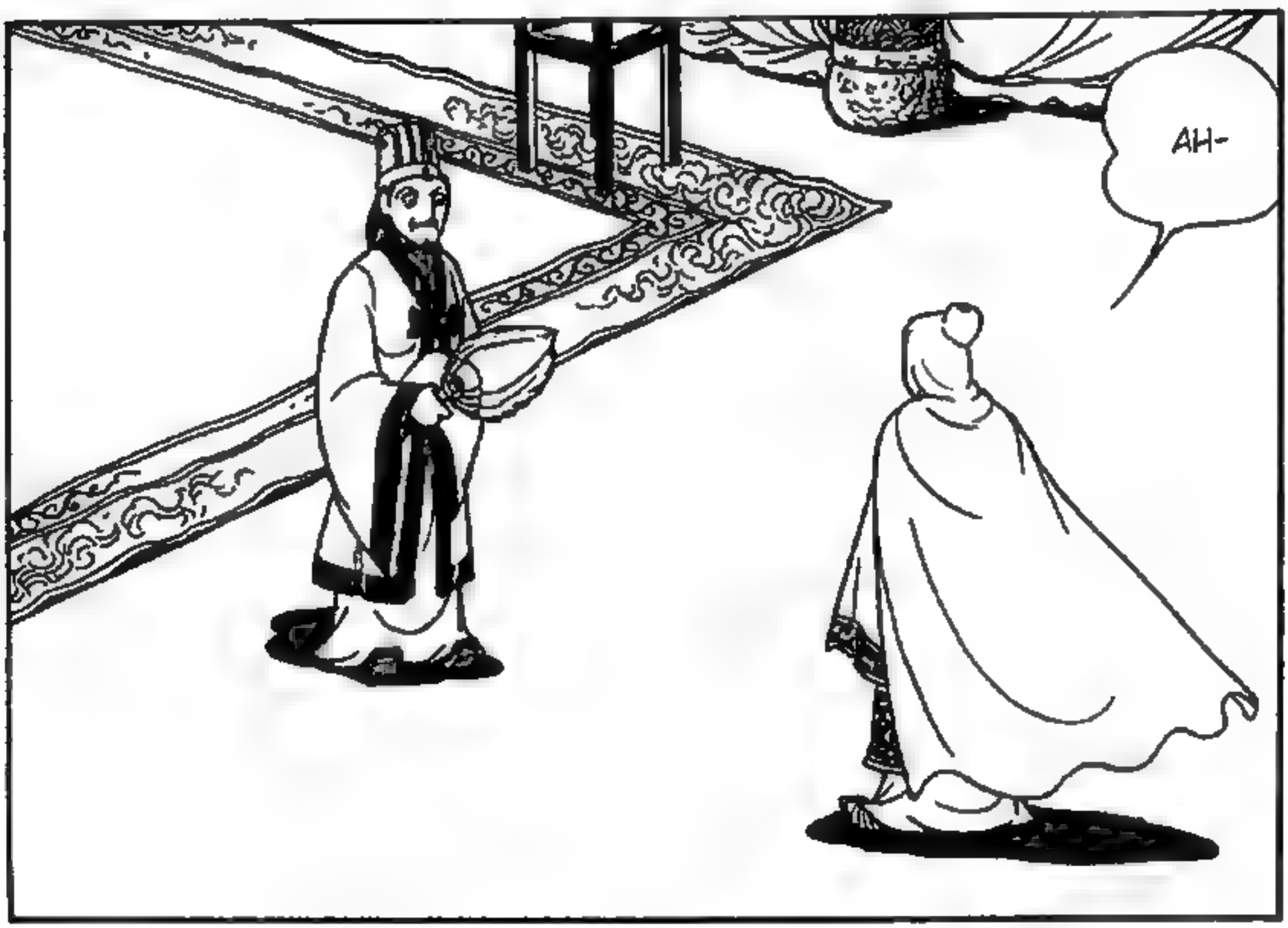
SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS LIU BEI.


PULL BACK, MEN!

IF ONLY HE WEREN'T OUR ENEMY...

# BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING





I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION HERE SO I LEFT ZHAO ZILONG AND HUANG ZHONG IN CHARGE OF MIANZHU PASS AND QUICKLY MADE MY WAY HERE LAST NIGHT.

WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE, KONG-MING?

STILL, IF THEIR DUEL GOES ON LONG ENOUGH, ONE IS BOUND TO FALL.

YES, AND NEITHER COULD BEST THE OTHER.

I HEAR MA CHAO AND ZHANG FEI HAD A HEATED DUEL.

YES, EXACTLY. DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS?

THE TWO ARE BOTH OUTSTANDING WARRIORS AND LOSING EITHER OF THEM WOULD BE A GREAT TRAGEDY.

Y-YOU DO!? PLEASE, TELL ME!

ACTUALLY, I DO HAVE ONE PLAN TO TURN MA CHAO TO OUR SIDE.

THUS, TELL HIM THAT IF HE ORDERS MA CHAO BACK, ALLOWING YOU TO FINISH YOUR SUBJUGATION OF SHU, YOU WILL GLADLY PETITION TO THE EMPEROR OF HAN TO FORMALLY BESTOW THIS TITLE UPON HIM.

ZHANG LU HAS LONG DESIRED THE TITLE OF "PRINCE OF HANNING."

I DON'T SEE HOW THAT WOULD BRING MA CHAO OVER TO OUR SIDE THOUGH...

I'M SURE ZHANG LU WOULD ACCEPT.

MA CHAO CURRENTLY HAS NO LAND OF HIS OWN. IF HE DOES NOT ACCOMPLISH SOME GREAT DEED ON THIS CAMPAIGN TO BE REWARDED WITH A POWER BASE OF HIS OWN, HE MAY VERY WELL NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE AGAIN.

?

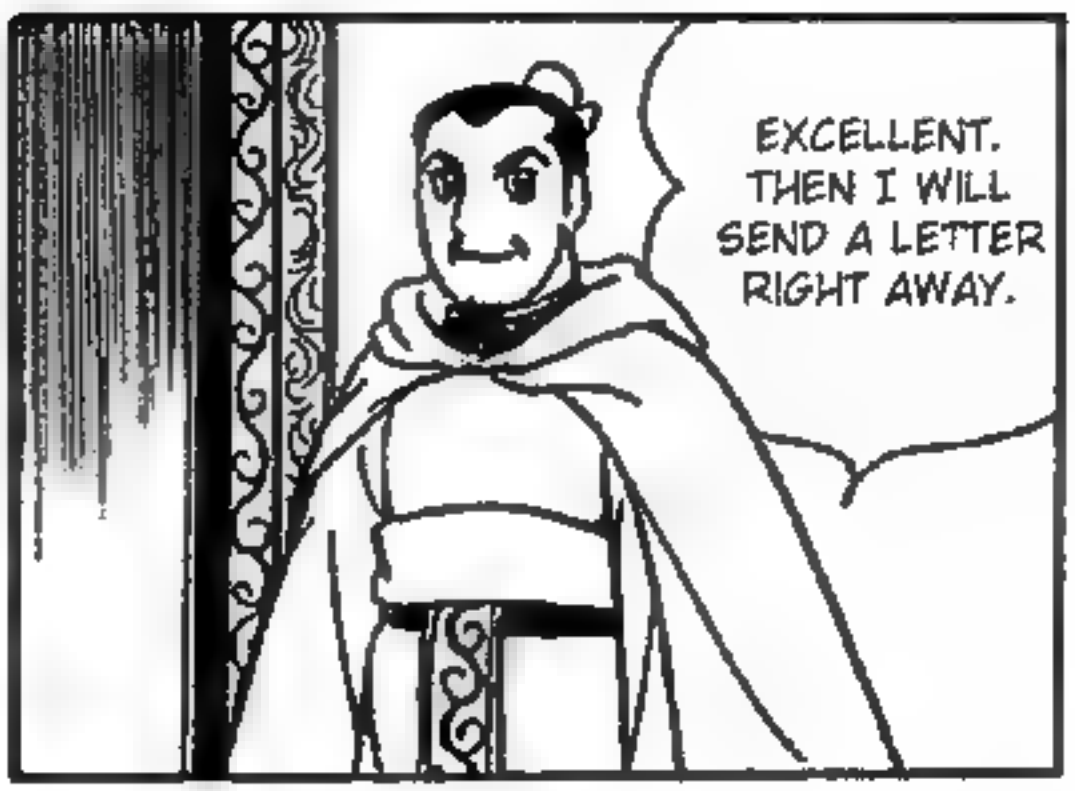
TO WITHDRAW IS AN ORDER THAT MA CHAO CANNOT POSSIBLY FOLLOW.

BUT HOW DO WE GET IN CONTACT WITH ZHANG LU?

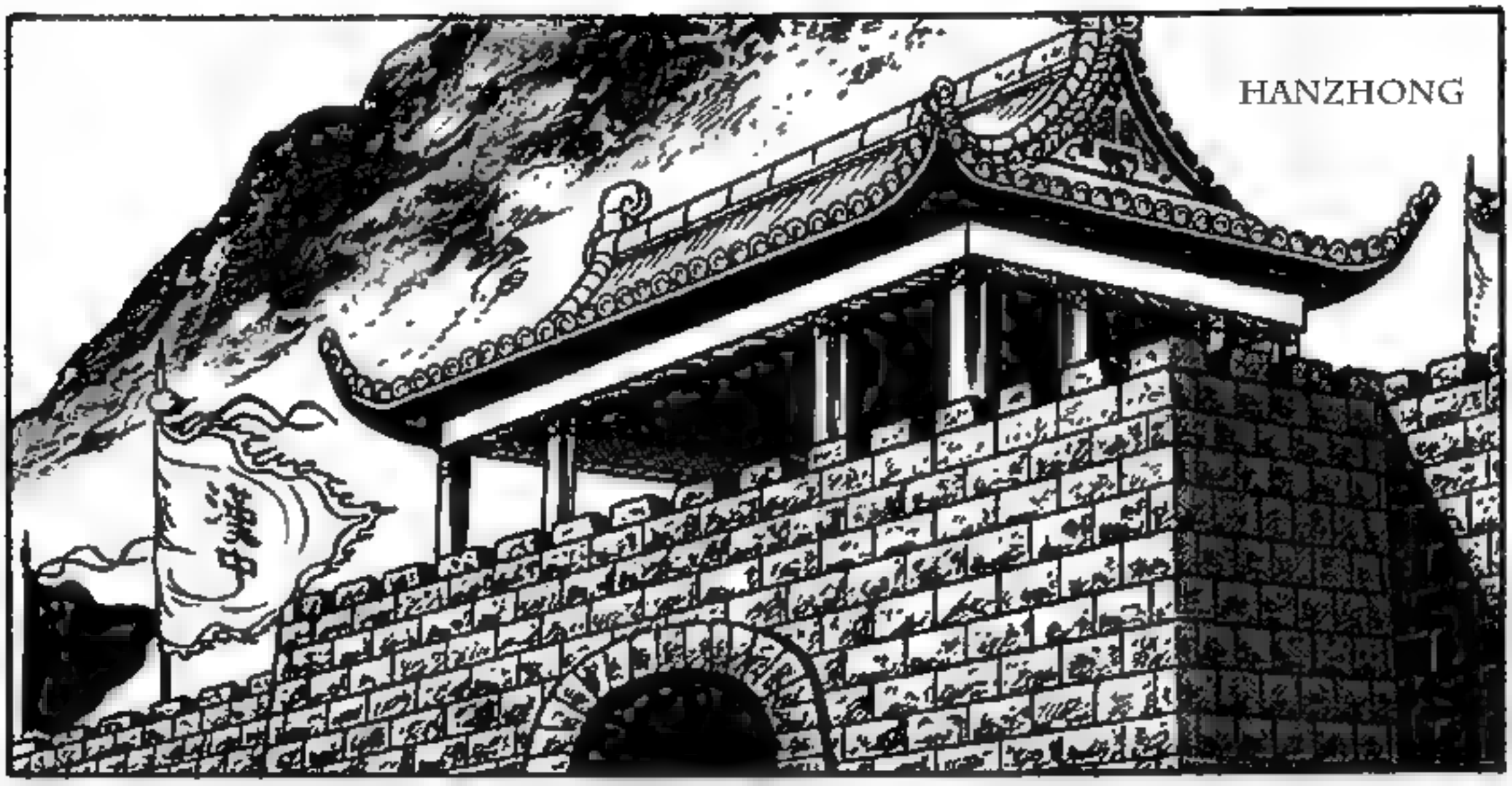
HM...

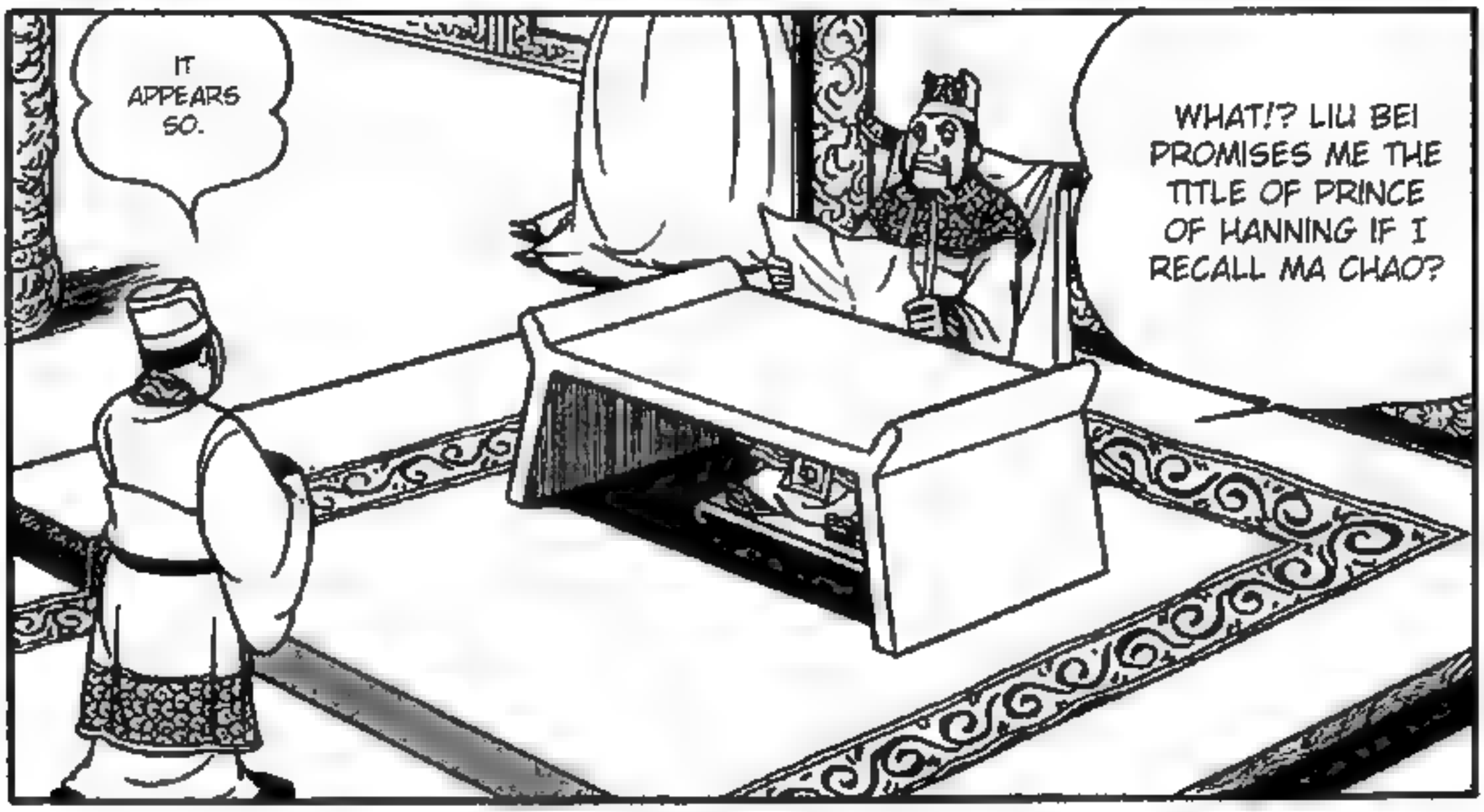
ONCE RELATIONS BETWEEN ZHANG LU AND MA CHAO SOUR, THAT IS WHEN WE WILL STRIKE.

AMONG ZHANG LU'S INNER CIRCLE IS A MAN NAMED YANG SONG, WHO IS WEAK TO MATERIAL WEALTH AND BRIBERY. A LITTLE GIFT SENT TOWARDS HIS WAY WILL ENSURE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN YOU AND ZHANG LU.




AND SO, SUN QIAN QUICKLY SET OUT FOR HANZHONG, CARRYING BOTH THE LETTER AND LAVISH GIFTS.


HANZHONG

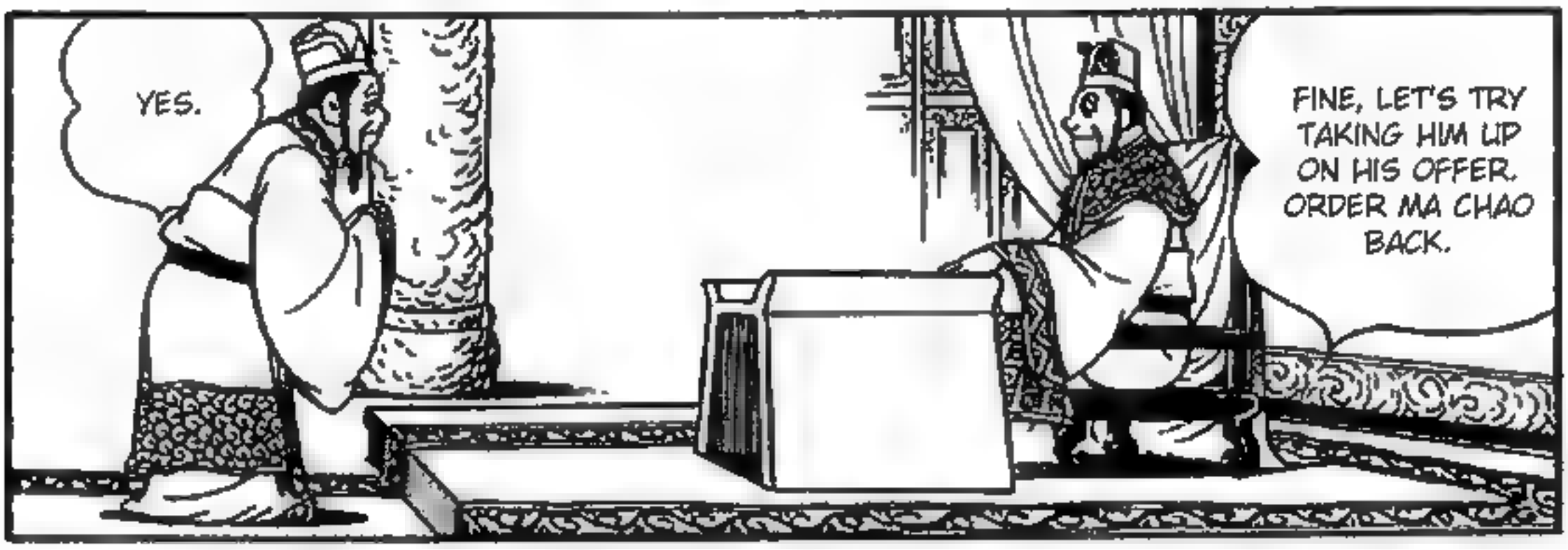

IT APPEARS SO.
WHAT!? LIU BEI PROMISES ME THE TITLE OF PRINCE OF HANNING IF I RECALL MA CHAO?

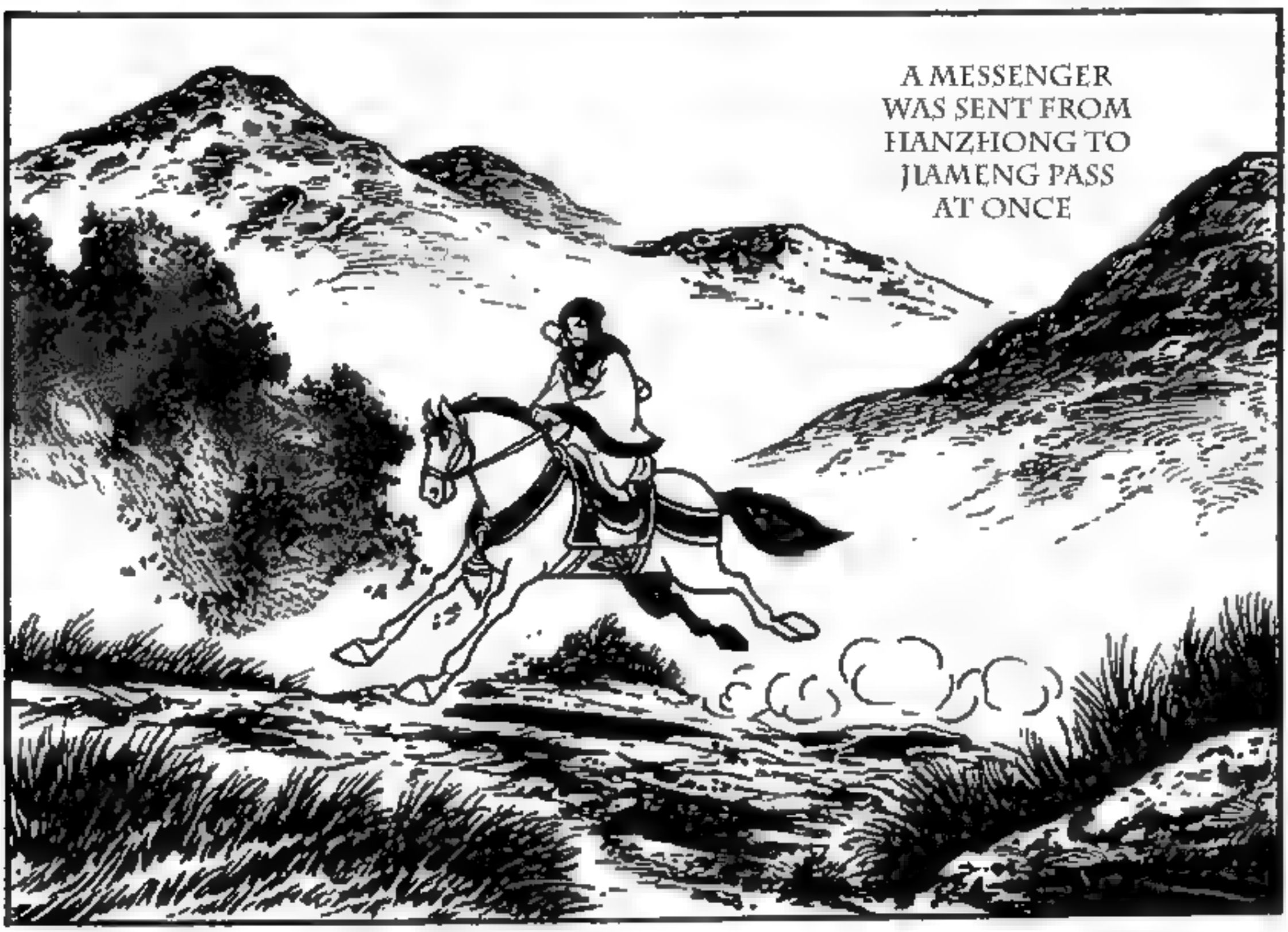
TRUE, BUT YOU FORGET HE IS ALSO THE UNCLE OF THE HAN EMPEROR. I'M SURE THIS IS ALL WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY FOR HIM.

BUT LIU BEI MERELY HOLDS THE RANK OF GENERAL OF THE LEFT WITHIN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HOW CAN HE PROMISE SUCH A THING?

I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE THE PRINCE OF HANNING...

HM...


YES.
FINE, LET'S TRY TAKING HIM UP ON HIS OFFER. ORDER MA CHAO BACK.


A MESSENGER WAS SENT FROM HANZHONG TO JIAMENG PASS AT ONCE

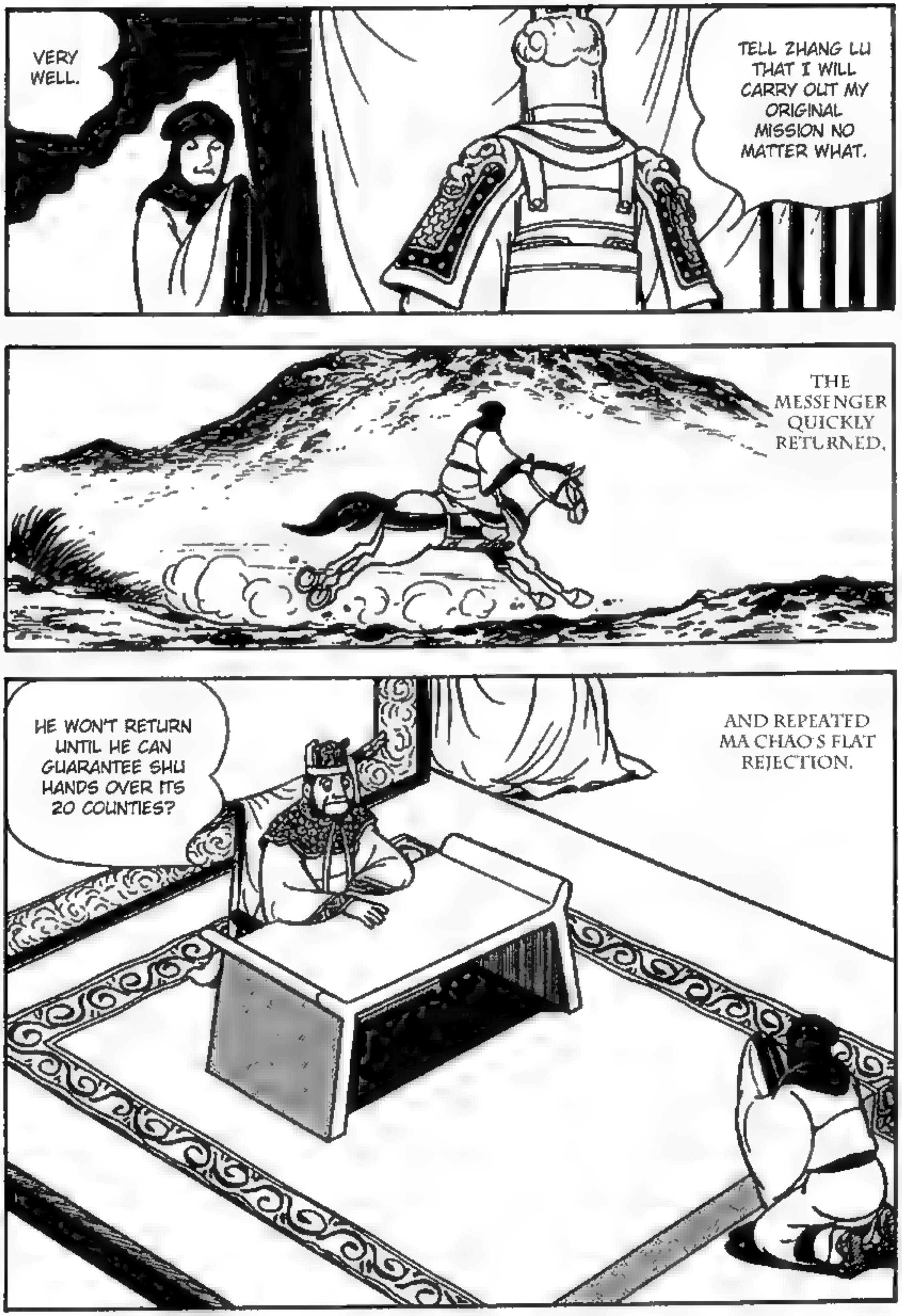
BUT I'VE YET TO ACCOMPLISH A SINGLE THING! I CANNOT RETURN UNTIL I'VE TAKEN LIU BEI'S HEAD AND ENSURED THAT LIU ZHANG WILL HAND OVER 20 COUNTIES.

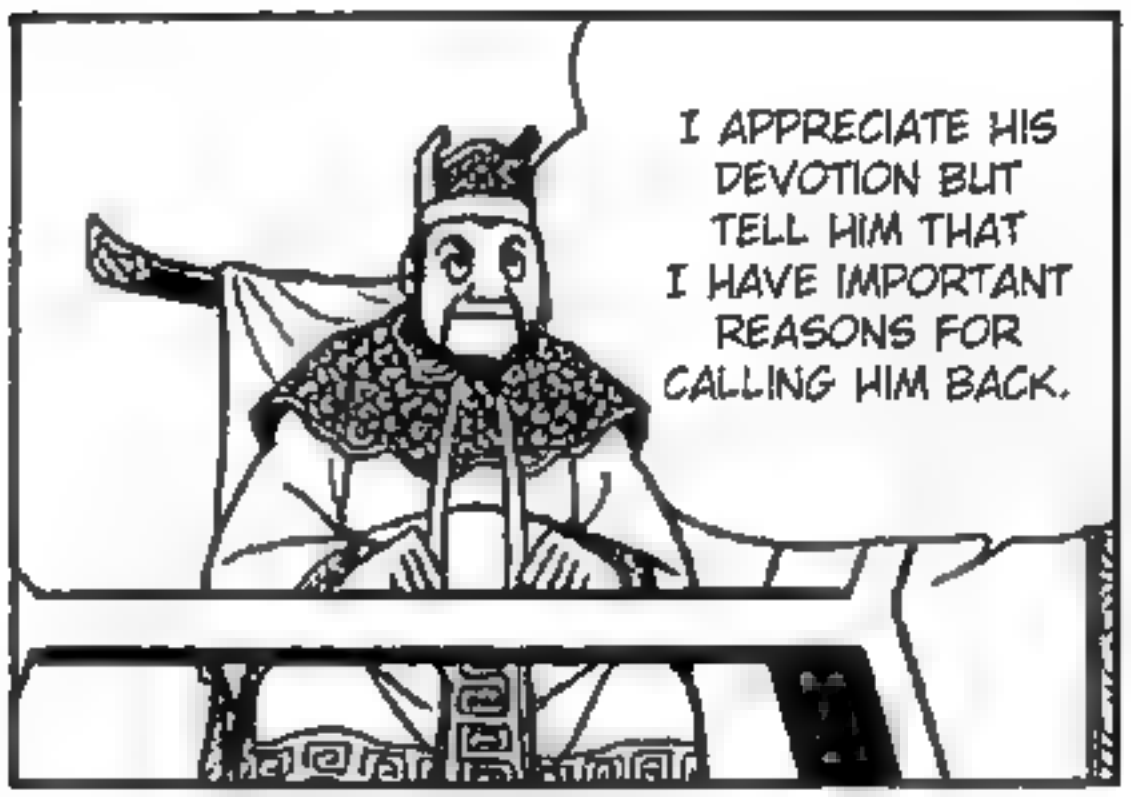
YES, GENERAL.

*WHAT!? HE WANTS ME TO WITHDRAW!?*

I CANNOT COMPLY.

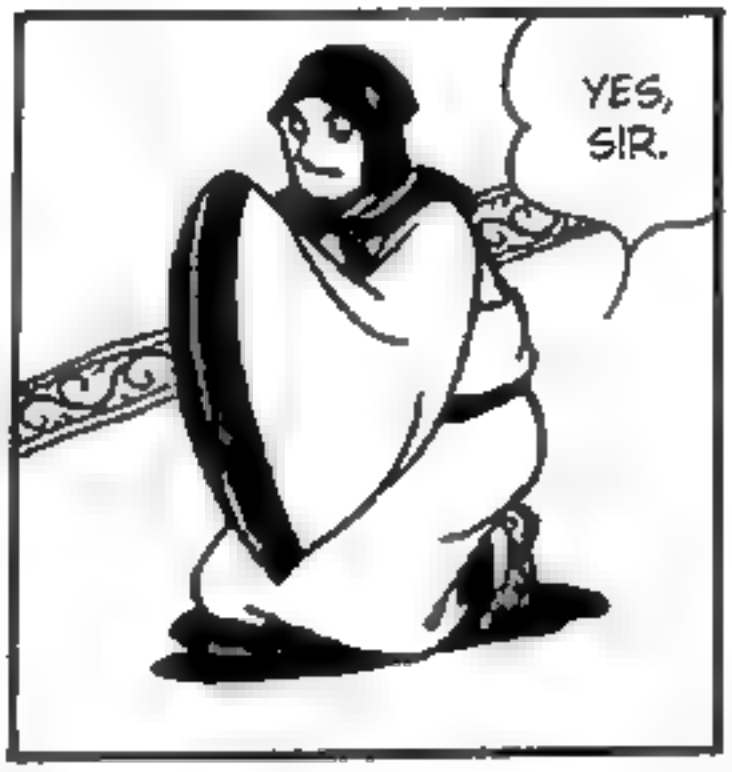
I'M AFRAID THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER FROM THE LORD PRECEPTOR.

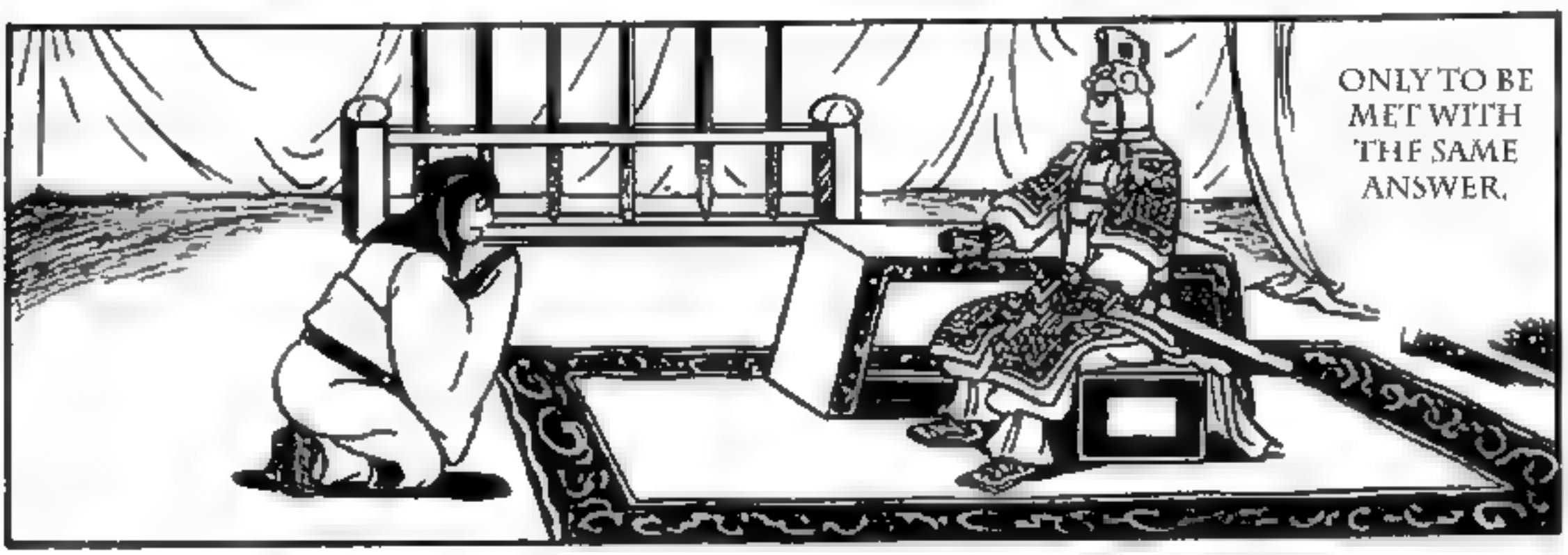

VERY WELL.
TELL ZHANG LU THAT I WILL CARRY OUT MY ORIGINAL MISSION NO MATTER WHAT.
THE MESSENGER QUICKLY RETURNED.
HE WON'T RETURN UNTIL HE CAN GUARANTEE SHU HANDS OVER ITS 20 COUNTIES?
AND REPEATED MA CHAO'S FLAT REJECTION.

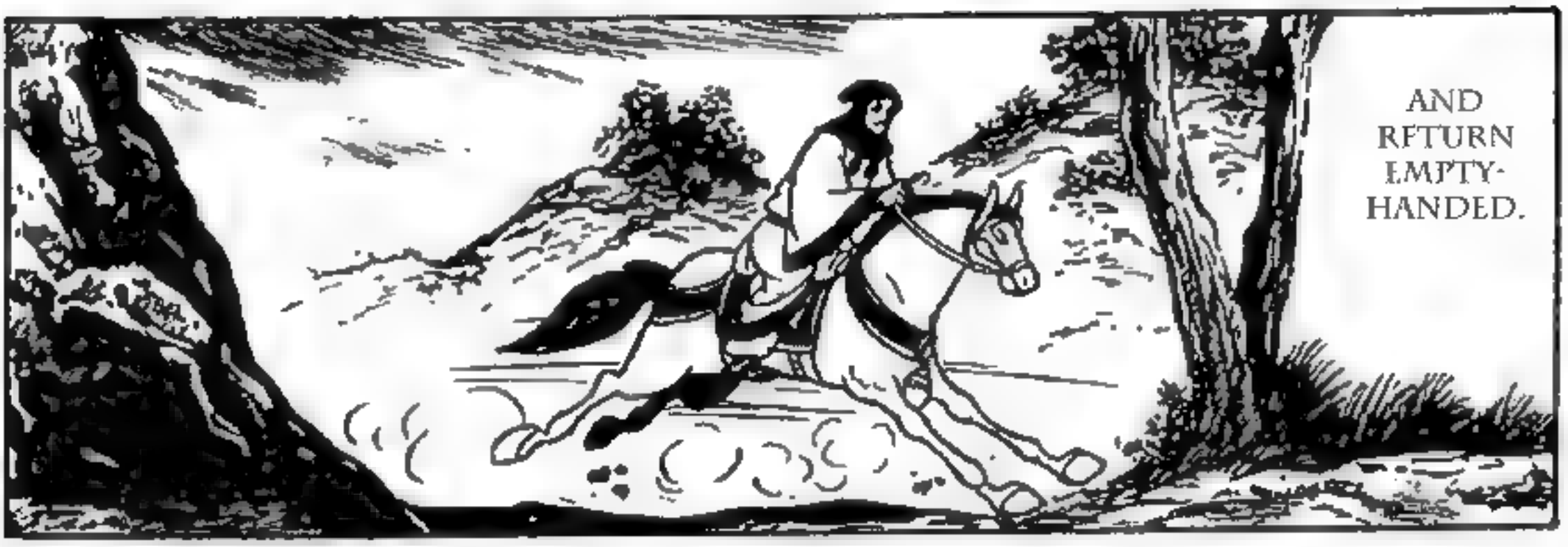

I APPRECIATE HIS DEVOTION BUT TELL HIM THAT I HAVE IMPORTANT REASONS FOR CALLING HIM BACK.

HMM...

AND SO THE MESSENGER MADE HIS WAY OUT TO JIAMING PASS AGAIN.


YES, SIR.


ONLY TO BE MET WITH THE SAME ANSWER.


AND RETURN EMPTY-HANDED.

YANG SONG'S RESIDENCE

IT'S... PROVING QUITE DIFFICULT. THAT MA CHAO'S QUITE THE OBSTINATE BULL, YOU SEE...

MAY I INQUIRE HOW THE PROMISE TO WITHDRAW MA CHAO HAS BEEN PROCEEDING?

WELL, ABOUT THAT...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW MA CHAO CAN DARE REFUSE AN ORDER FROM THE MAN WHO PROVIDED HIM REFUGE AT HIS MOST CRITICAL TIME.

DOES THAT MEAN ZHANG LU HAS GIVEN UP ON HIS DESIRE TO BE THE PRINCE OF HANNING...?

IT'S *BECAUSE* HE'S GRATEFUL THAT HE WISHES TO REPAY HIS DEBT TO ZHANG LU NO MATTER WHAT.

N-NO, OF COURSE NOT!

IF SO, MY LORD LIU BEI WILL BE "VERY GRATEFUL" IF YOU COULD MAKE ZHANG LU HOLD UP HIS SIDE OF THE PROMISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

A-ALL OF THIS ON TOP OF WHAT HE'S ALREADY GIVEN ME...?

I'VE GOT TO CALL BACK MA CHAO NO MATTER WHAT...

YES, YES...

YES, THE IMPERIAL UNCLE IS A VERY GENEROUS MAN, YOU SEE...

REST ASSURED, I'LL HAVE MA CHAO BACK IN NO TIME.

AH, I HAVE JUST THE PLAN!

YES, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK HIS PROFESSED GRATITUDE IS MERELY A FRONT FOR HIS OWN AMBITIONS.

WHAT!? YOU THINK THE REASON WHY MA CHAO REFUSES TO COME IS SO HE CAN CONQUER SHU FOR HIMSELF AND AVENGE HIS FAMILY'S DEATH!?

HMM, YES... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE REFUSED TO COME BACK EVEN AFTER I'VE ASKED THREE TIMES...

BUT IF HE GETS HIS WAY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET SHU'S 20 COUNTIES NOR THE TITLE OF PRINCE OF HANNING!

YOU SHOULD OUTLINE TO HIM THREE CONDI-TIONS.

THREE CONDI-TIONS?

WE MUST TAKE CAREFUL MEASURES RIGHT AWAY.

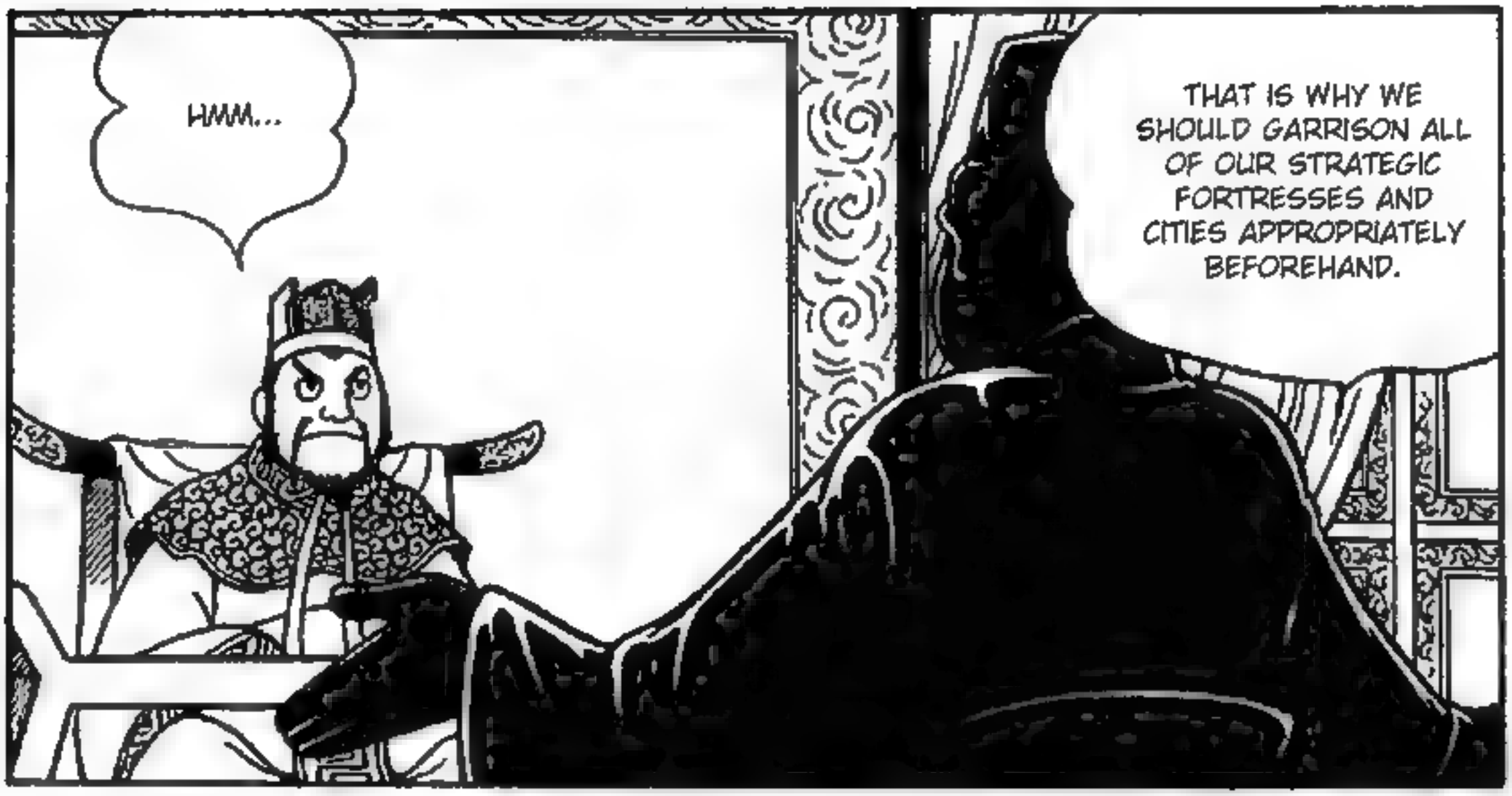
WHAT SHOULD I DO THEN, YANG SONG?

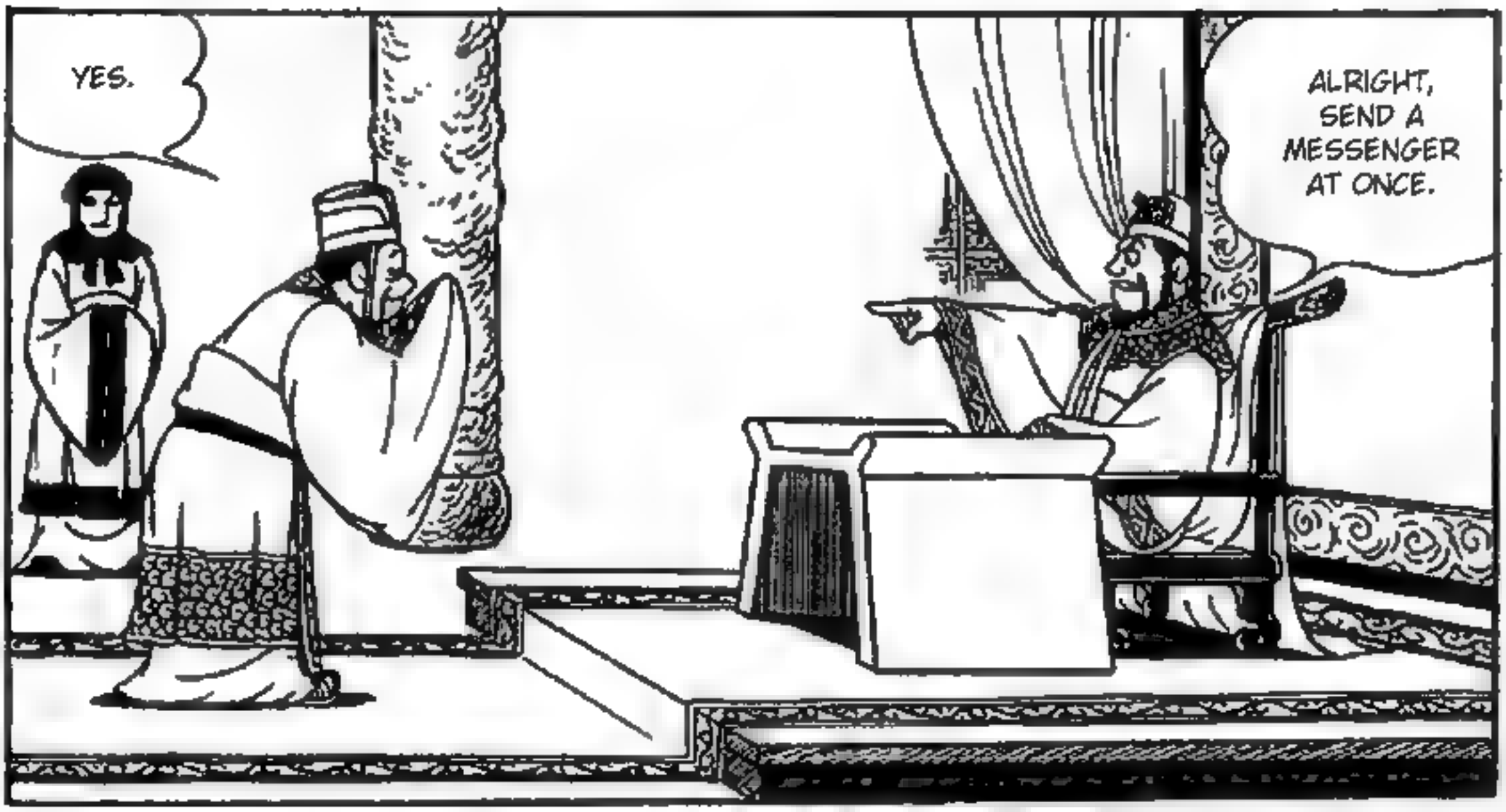
THOSE CONDITIONS SEEM AWFULLY HARSH. WHAT IF HE DECIDES TO INSTEAD ATTACK HANZHONG?

IF HE WISHES TO CONTINUE THE CAMPAIGN YET CANNOT FULFIL THESE CONDITIONS, HE MUST HAND OVER HIS HEAD.

IF HE IS SO SET ON REPAYING HIS DEBT TO YOU BY CONTINUING THE FIGHT, HE MUST SATISFY THESE 3 CONDITIONS.

1. CONQUEST OF SHU WITHIN A MONTH
2. TO BRING BACK LIU ZHANG'S HEAD
3. TO REPEL LIU BEI'S FORCES


HMM...
THAT IS WHY WE SHOULD GARRISON ALL OF OUR STRATEGIC FORTRESSES AND CITIES APPROPRIATELY BEFOREHAND.


YES.
ALRIGHT, SEND A MESSENGER AT ONCE.

THE ULTIMATUM WAS DELIVERED TO MA CHAO AT ONCE

WHAT!? GIVE UP MY OWN HEAD IF I CAN'T FULFIL ALL 3 OF THESE ABSURD CONDITIONS IN JUST ONE MONTH!?

AS A MERE MESSENGER, I'M AFRAID I DO NOT KNOW, GENERAL...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?

YES.

FINE, YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF FOR NOW.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE WHY BEFORE RETURNING?

I MUST SAY I'M COMPLETELY BAFFLED AT THIS SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS.

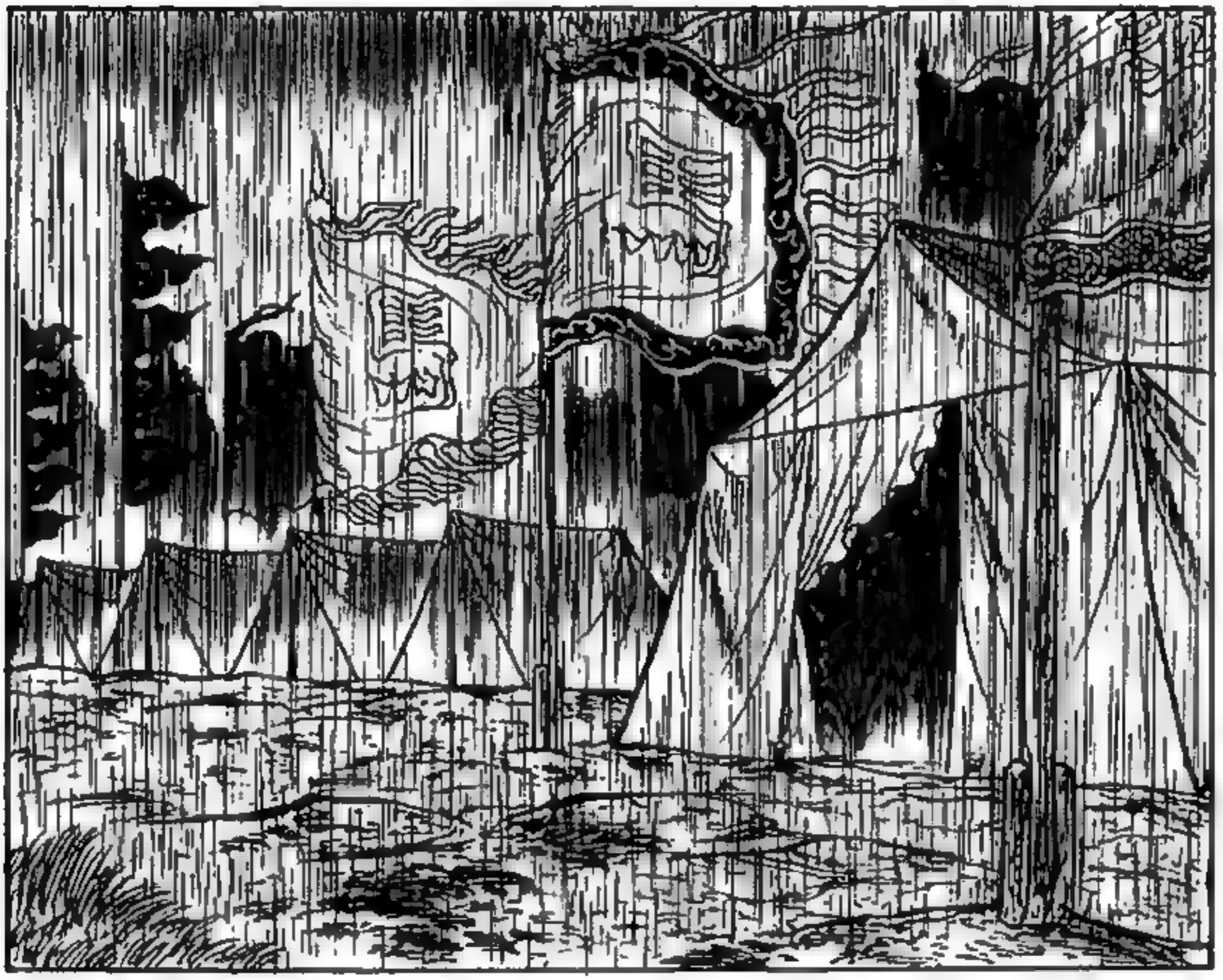
MA DAI, TO FULFIL THESE THREE CONDITIONS IN A SINGLE MONTH IS IMPOSSIBLE. AS REGRETTABLE AS IT MAY BE, I'M AFRAID WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WITHDRAW TO HANZHONG.

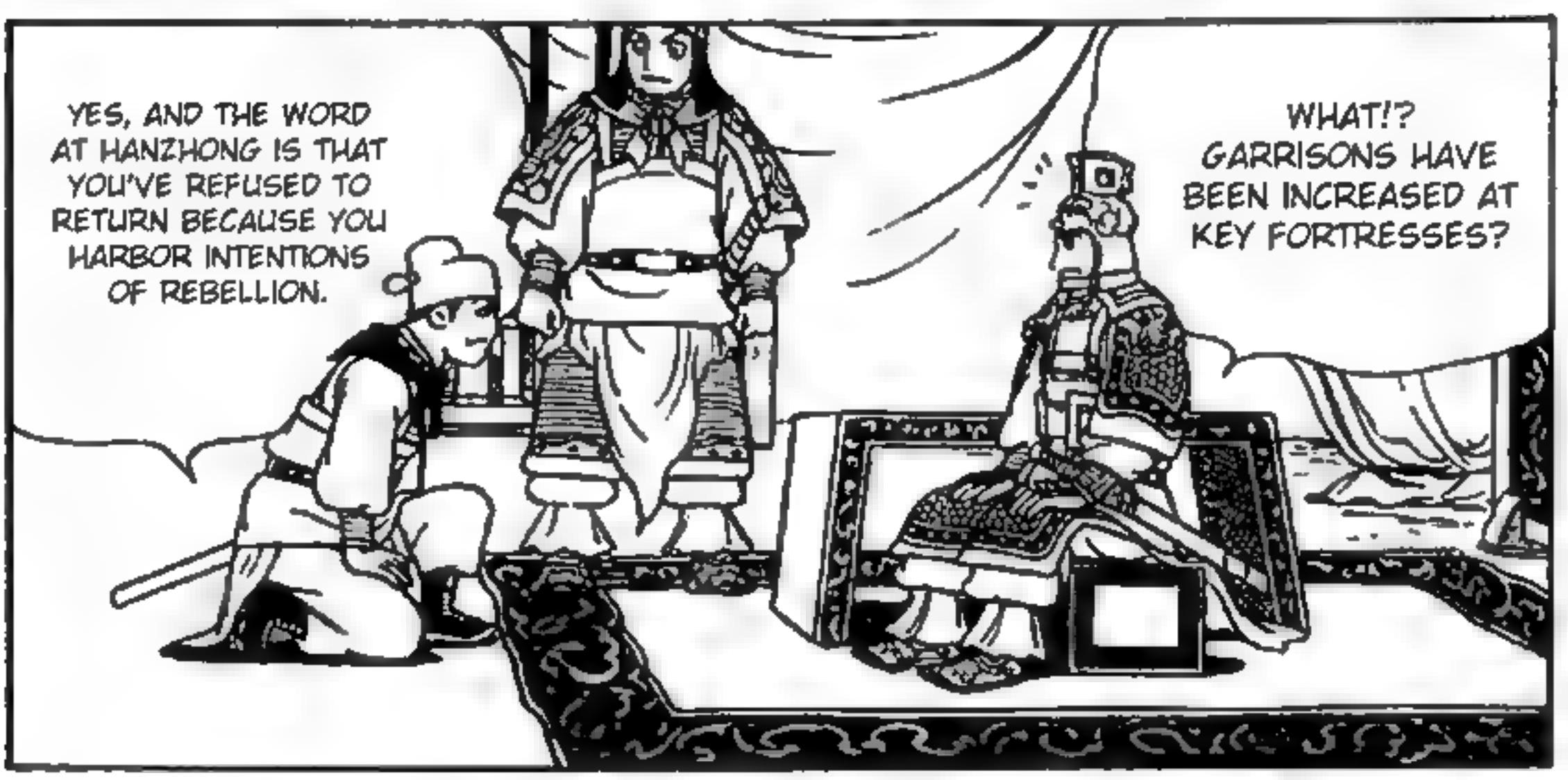
YES, SOMETHING IS INDEED OFF...

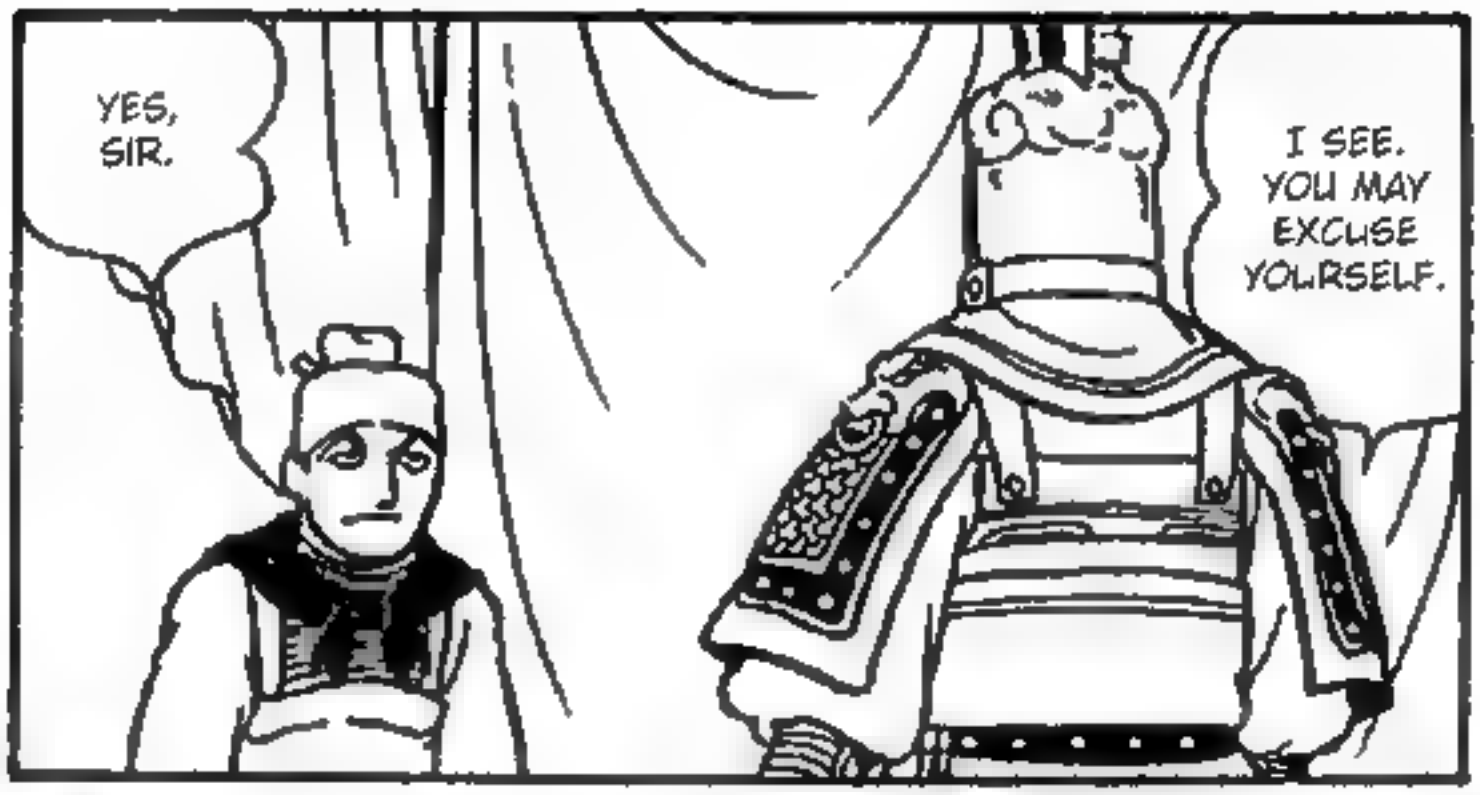
YES.

SEND OUT SOME SPIES TO INVESTIGATE.

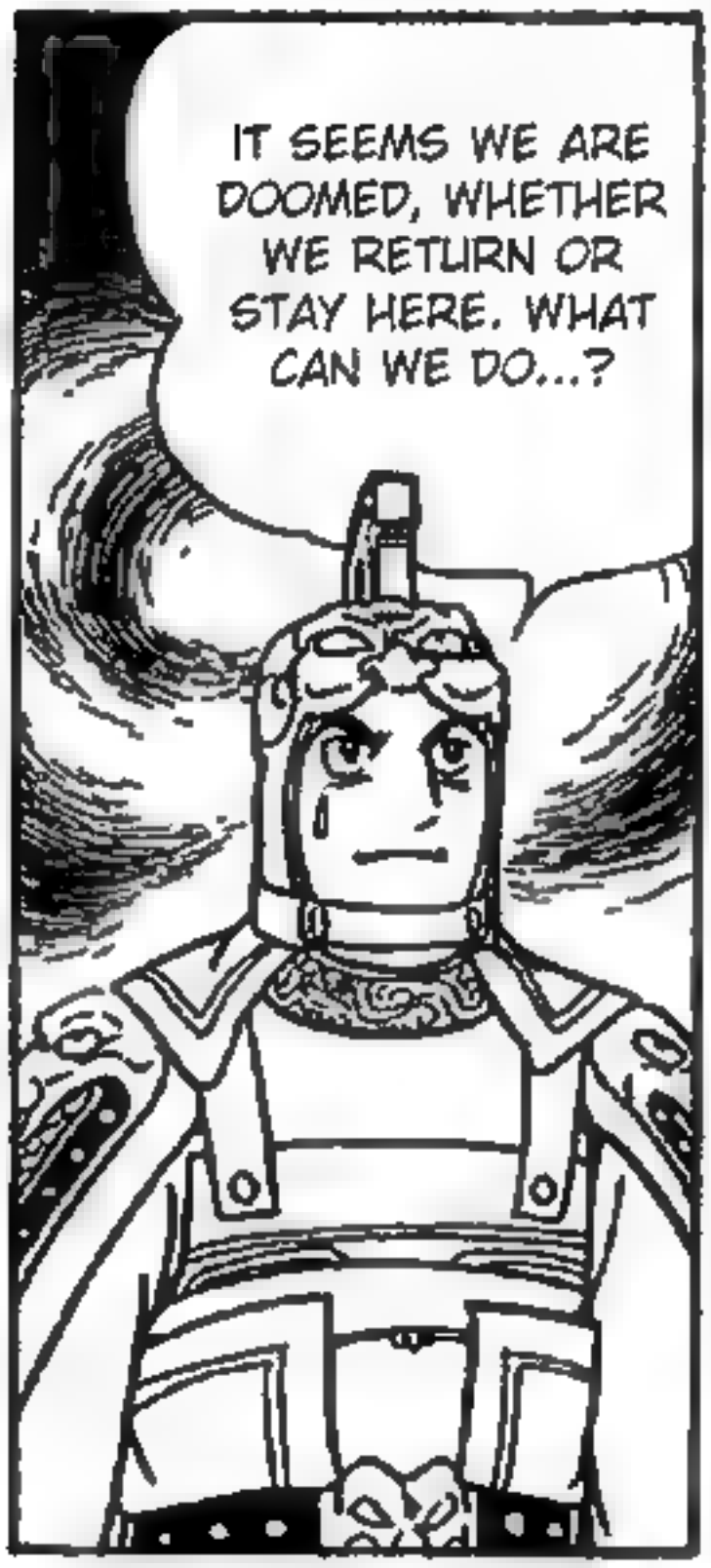
# MA CHAO'S CAPITULATION



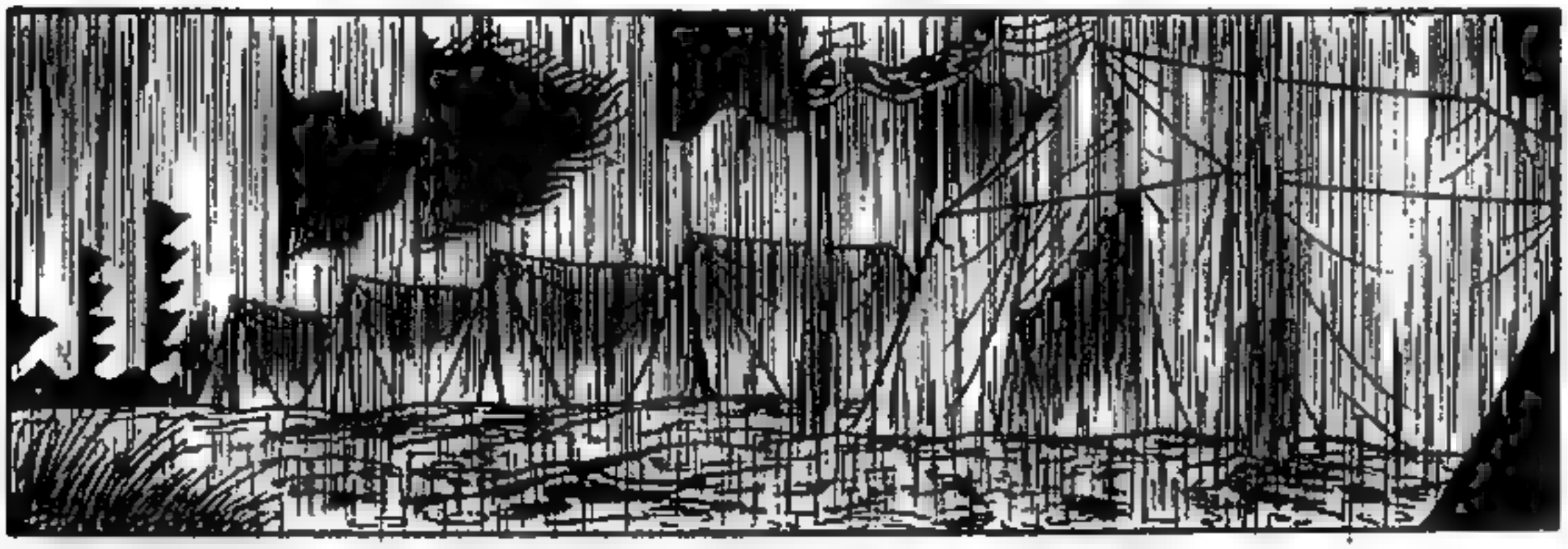

YES, AND THE WORD AT HANZHONG IS THAT YOU'VE REFUSED TO RETURN BECAUSE YOU HARBOR INTENTIONS OF REBELLION.
WHAT!? GARRISONS HAVE BEEN INCREASED AT KEY FORTRESSES?


YES, SIR.
I SEE. YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF.

ME!? START A REVOLT!?


IT SEEMS WE ARE DOOMED, WHETHER WE RETURN OR STAY HERE. WHAT CAN WE DO...?

YES.
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MA DAI?



JIAMING
PASS
OH?
MY LORD, IT APPEARS MA CHAO IS IN A QUANDARY.

WHAT!? YOU'LL GO!?

THE TIME TO STRIKE IS NOW. I WILL GO TO HIS CAMPS AND PERSUADE HIM TO JOIN OUR CAUSE.

I UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS, BUT I ASSURE YOU I WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

NO, NO. YOU'RE LIKE A RIGHT HAND TO ME. I CANNOT HAVE YOU RUN THE RISK OF PERSONALLY GOING TO HIS CAMP.

BUT WE CANNOT LET THIS CHANCE GO TO WAS-

NO, ABSO-LUTELY NOT. I CANNOT ALLOW YOU.

A MAN NAMED LI HUI HAS COME FROM MIANZHU, WITH A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION WRITTEN BY ZHAO ZILONG.

EXCUSE ME, MY LORD.

LI HUI?

WHAT WOULD A MAN LIKE THAT COME TO SEE ME FOR?

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, LI HUI SHOULD BE THE LEARNED SHU STATESMEN WHO URGENTLY ADVISED LIU ZHANG TO NOT INVITE OUR TROOPS HERE TO SHU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SEND HIM IN.

IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULD HEAR HIM OUT. I WILL LISTEN IN SECRETLY FROM THE BACK OF THE SCREEN JUST IN CASE.

AND I AM LIU BEI XUANDE.

THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO SEE ME, SIR. I AM LI HUI DE'ANG.

UPON SEEING KONGMING SET TO MOTION HIS PLAN TO MAKE MA CHAO JOIN YOUR CAUSE, I HAVE COME TO VOLUNTEER MYSELF AS THE PERSUADER.

SO WHY HAVE YOU COME TO SEE ME?

IT IS QUITE EASY FOR ONE IN A THIRD-PARTY SUCH AS MYSELF TO SEE WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.

HOW DID YOU-

I HEAR YOU'RE A LOYAL SUPPORTER OF LIU ZHANG. SO WHY HAVE YOU COME TO AID ME?

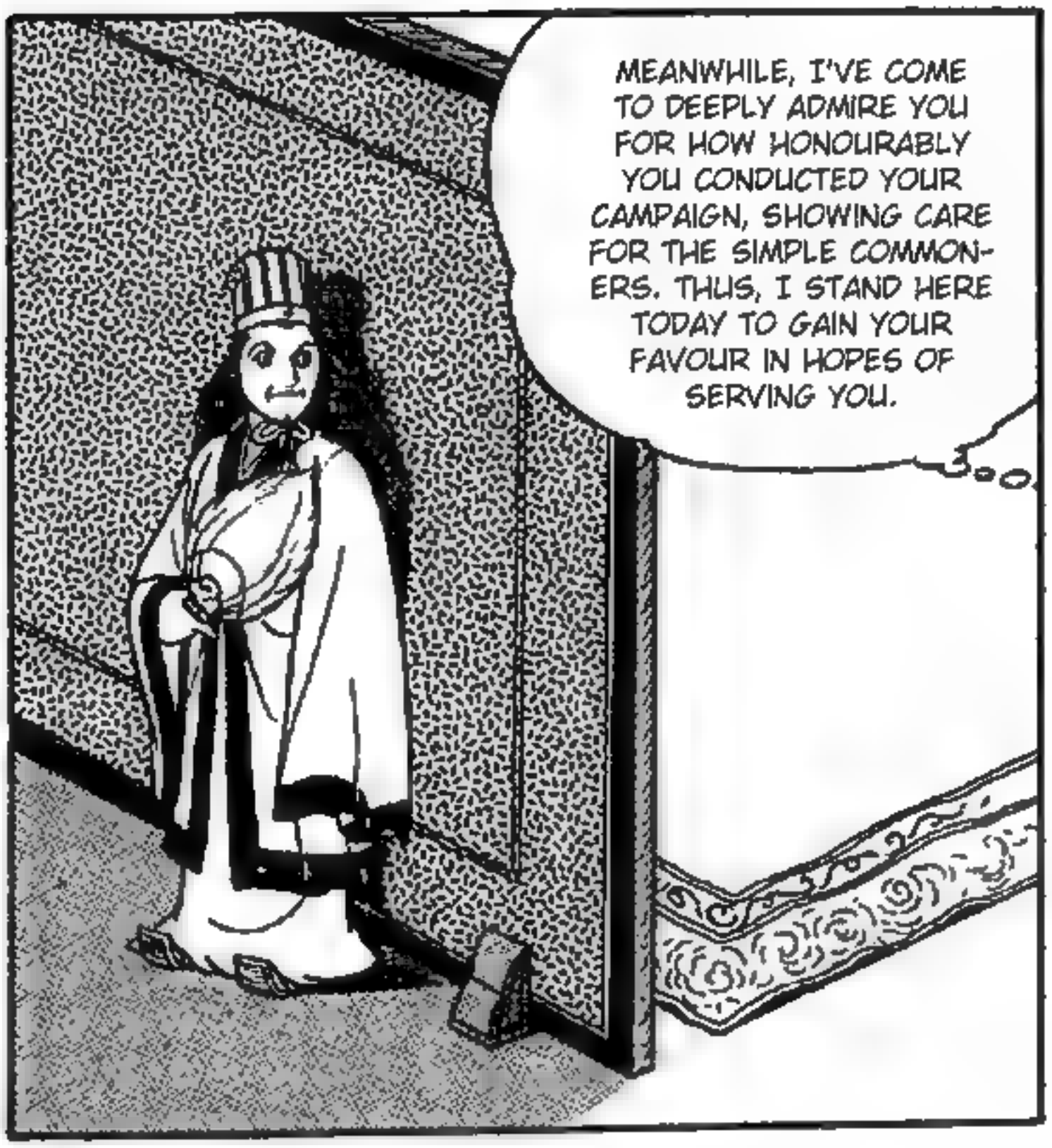
HMM...

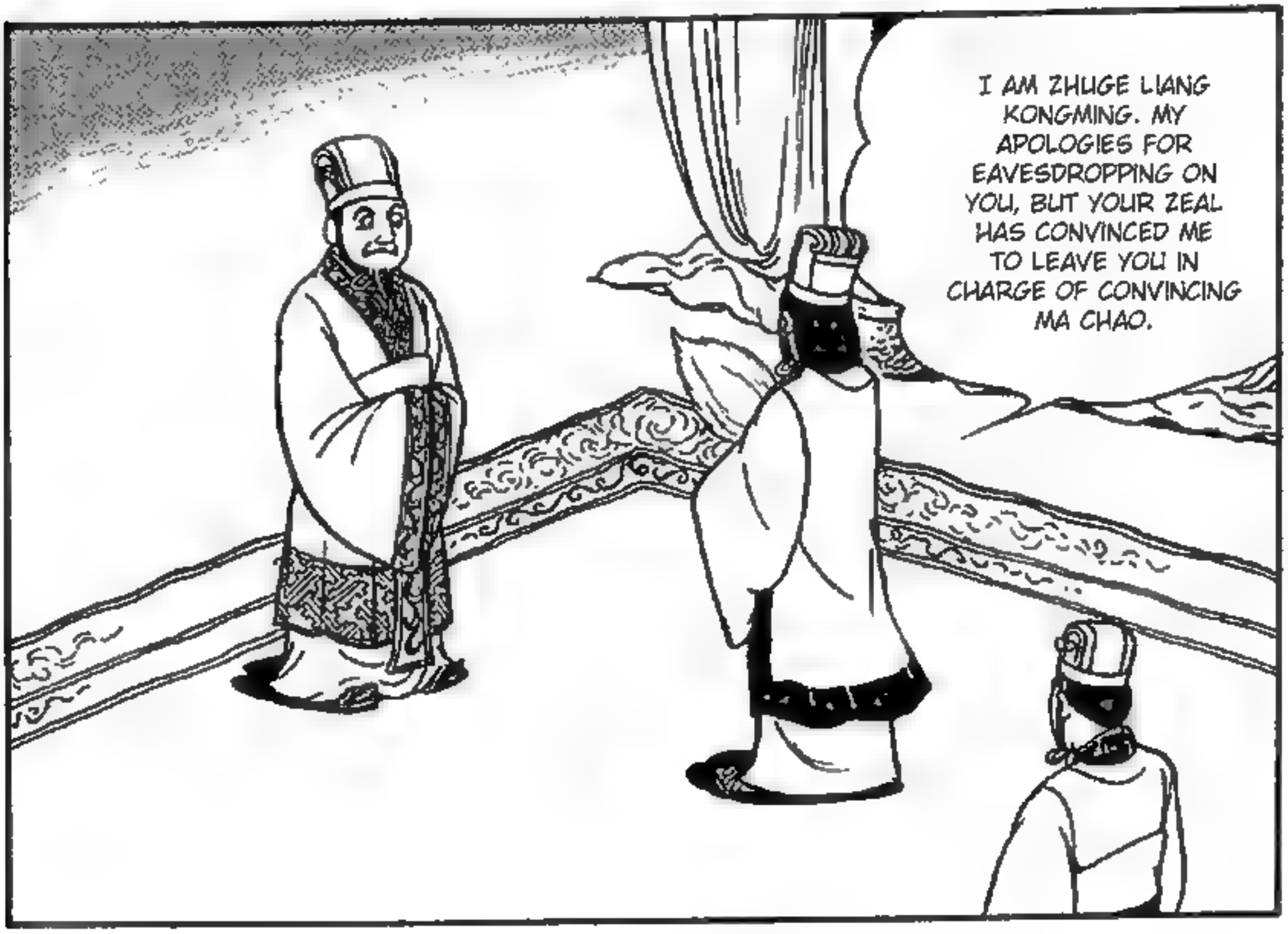
CONSIDERING THAT I'VE MET WITH MA CHAO ONCE BEFORE, I'M QUITE CONFIDENT THAT I CAN PERSUADE MA CHAO.

I ADMIT I USED TO BE A LOYAL SUPPORTER OF LIU ZHANG, BUT HE HAS FLATLY REJECTED MY ADVICE AND WELCOMED HIS OWN DOWNFALL.

JUST AS A WISE BIRD CHOOSES THE RIGHT TREE TO BUILD ITS NEST, SO DOES A WISE MAN CHOOSE THE RIGHT LORD TO SERVE.

A SPLENDID DECISION, LI HUI.

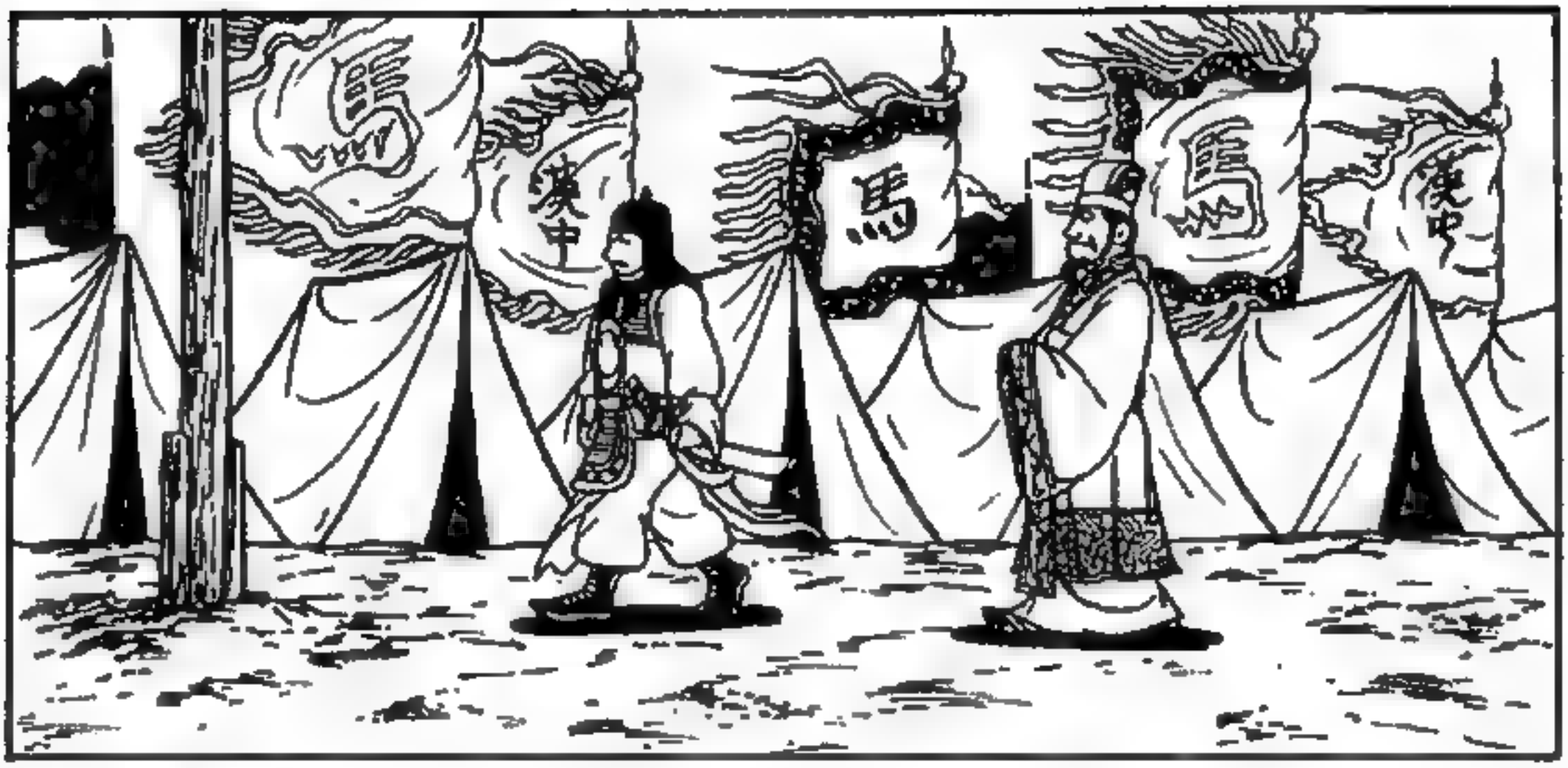

MEANWHILE, I'VE COME TO DEEPLY ADMIRE YOU FOR HOW HONOURABLY YOU CONDUCTED YOUR CAMPAIGN, SHOWING CARE FOR THE SIMPLE COMMONERS. THUS, I STAND HERE TODAY TO GAIN YOUR FAVOUR IN HOPES OF SERVING YOU.


I AM ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING. MY APOLOGIES FOR EAVESDROPPING ON YOU, BUT YOUR ZEAL HAS CONVINCED ME TO LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE OF CONVINCING MA CHAO.

THAT MAN'S GOT QUITE THE SILVER-TONGUE. HE'S COME HERE TO PERSUADE ME TO SURRENDER, NO DOUBT.

A MAN NAMED LI HUI IS HERE TO SEE ME?

HIDE BEHIND THE CURTAINS AND CUT HIM DOWN WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL.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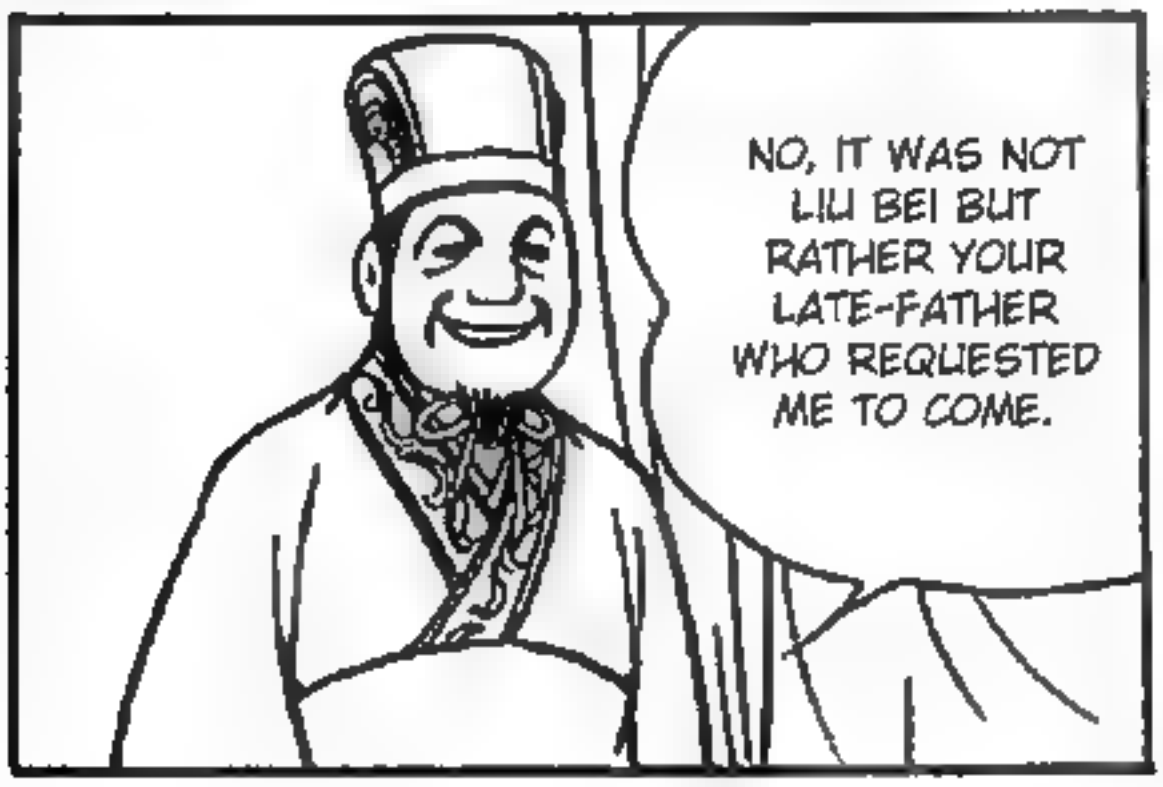
WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, LI HUI?

THE GENERAL IS OVER THERE.


NO, IT WAS NOT LIU BEI BUT RATHER YOUR LATE-FATHER WHO REQUESTED ME TO COME.

HAVE YOU PERHAPS COME AT LIU BEI'S REQUEST TO CONVINCE ME TO SERVE HIM?

SO MY LATE-FATHER HAS SENT YOU HERE, HAS HE NOW? INTERESTING.

WHAT!

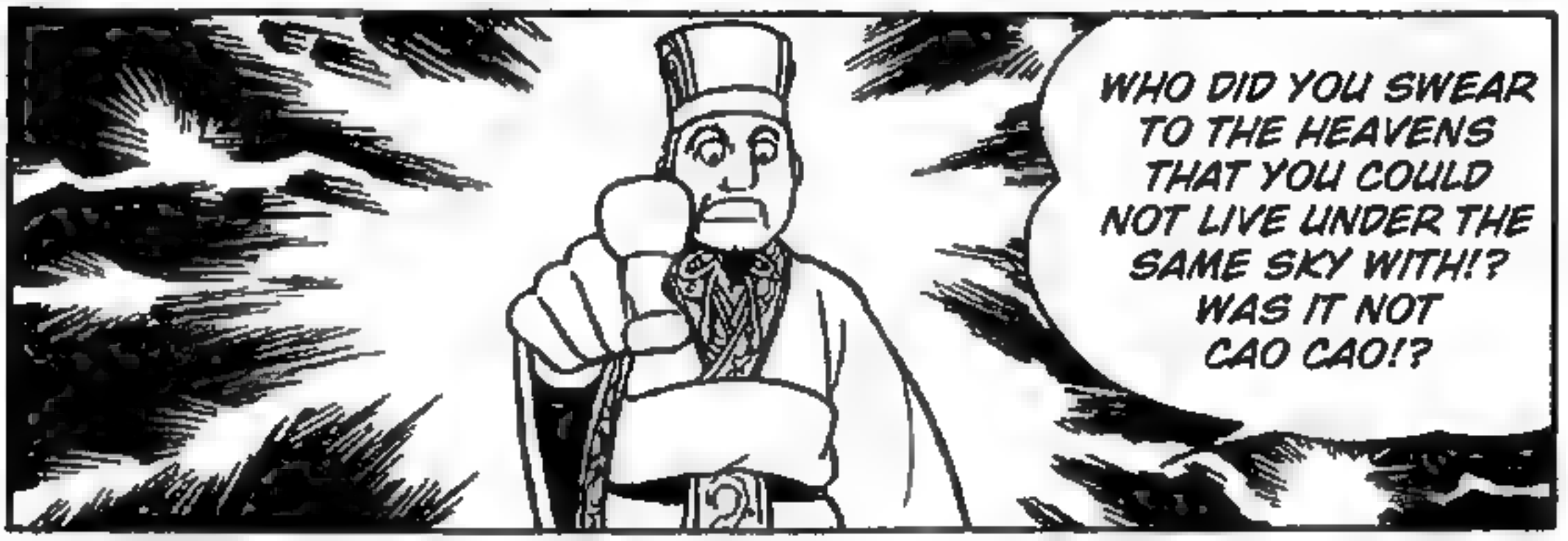
HE TOLD ME TO ADVISE HIS MIS-GUIDED SON.

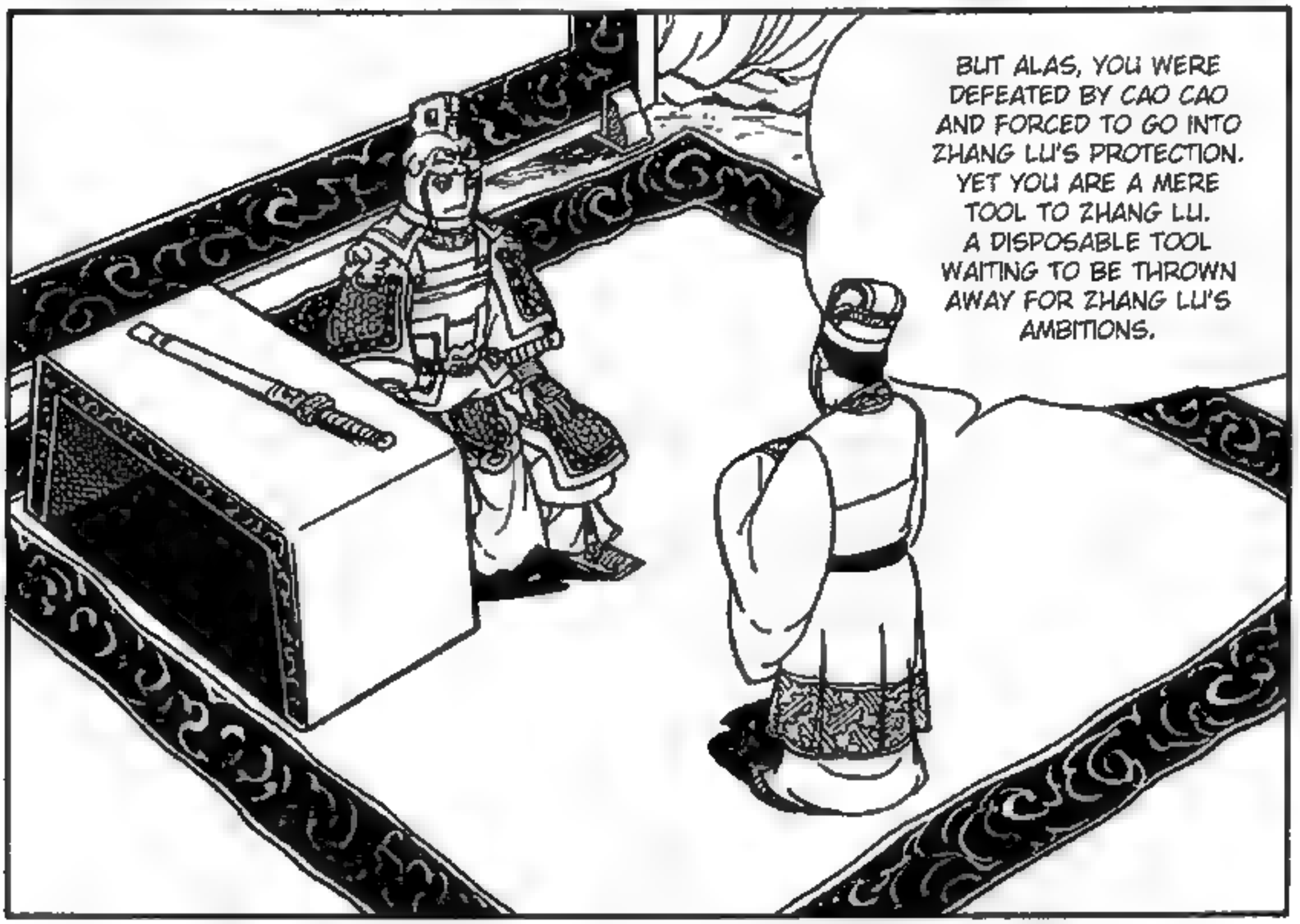
HAHA. CUT ME DOWN IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ANYTHING I AM ABOUT TO SAY.

LET ME WARN YOU THAT IF YOUR WORDS DO NOT REST ON SOUND LOGIC, YOUR HEAD WILL REST ON THE POINT OF MY BLADE.

I WILL NOT SILENTLY STAND BY AS I WATCH A FINE MAN LIKE YOU RUIN HIS FUTURE.

WHO WAS IT THAT KILLED YOUR FATHER, MA CHAO!?


WHO DID YOU SWEAR TO THE HEAVENS THAT YOU COULD NOT LIVE UNDER THE SAME SKY WITH!? WAS IT NOT CAO CAO!?


BUT ALAS, YOU WERE DEFEATED BY CAO CAO AND FORCED TO GO INTO ZHANG LU'S PROTECTION. YET YOU ARE A MERE TOOL TO ZHANG LU. A DISPOSABLE TOOL WAITING TO BE THROWN AWAY FOR ZHANG LU'S AMBITIONS.

NGH...

AND HERE YOU ARE, FIGHTING NEITHER FOR HONOUR NOR TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER'S DEATH. SURELY, YOUR FATHER IS WEEPING FROM THE NETHER-WORLDS AT YOUR TRAGIC SITUATION.

*NONE OTHER THAN CAO CAO, THE MAN WHO SLAUGHTERED YOUR FAMILY!*

"NGHH?" IS THAT THE BEST RESPONSE YOU CAN MUSTER!? WHO DO YOU THINK WILL MOST REJOICE IF YOU WERE TO TAKE LIU BEI'S HEAD HERE?

YOUR WORDS ARE TRUE... MY ENEMY IS CAO CAO...

IF YOU'VE REALIZED WHO YOUR TRUE ENEMY IS, THEN DISMISS YOUR HIDDEN ARMED GUARDS.

NOW IS BETTER THAN NEVER.

FORGIVE MY FOOLISHNESS, LI HUI, MY EYES HAVE ONLY NOW AWOKEN.

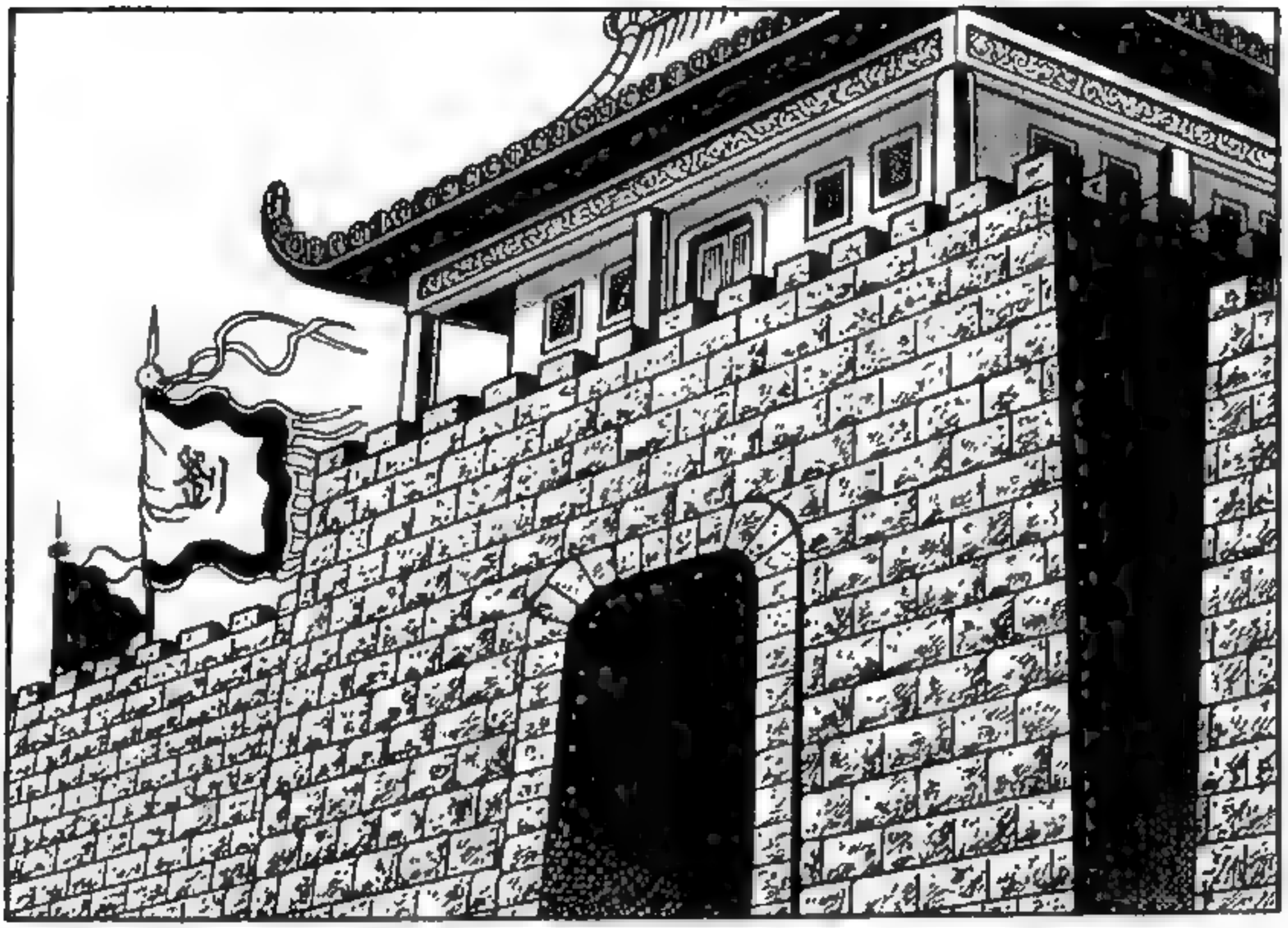
LEAVE THE TENT AT ONCE.

I AM ASHAMED.

TO FIGHT AGAINST TYRANNY UNDER LIU BEI'S BANNER IS NOT ONLY FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE BUT TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER AS WELL.
NOW LET US GO VISIT LIU BEI TOGETHER. HE IS A VIRTUOUS LORD WHO IS COMPASSIONATE TO ALL HIS SUBJECTS AND WILL RIGHTFULLY TREAT YOU WELL.

YES, PLEASE LEAD ME THE WAY.

LI HUI SUC-CEEDED IN PERSUADING MA CHAO.



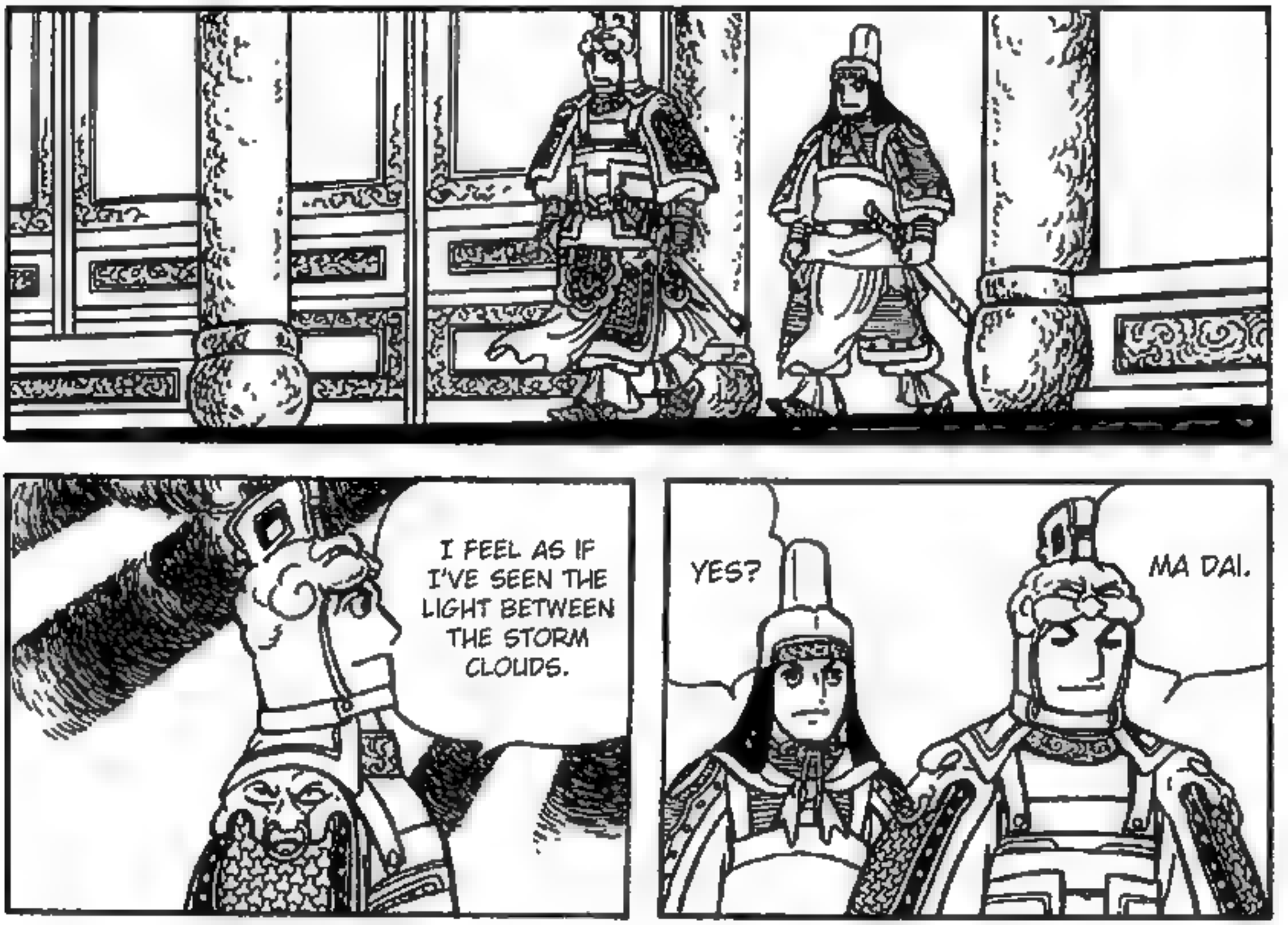
I COULD NOT BE MORE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SERVICE, LI HUI.

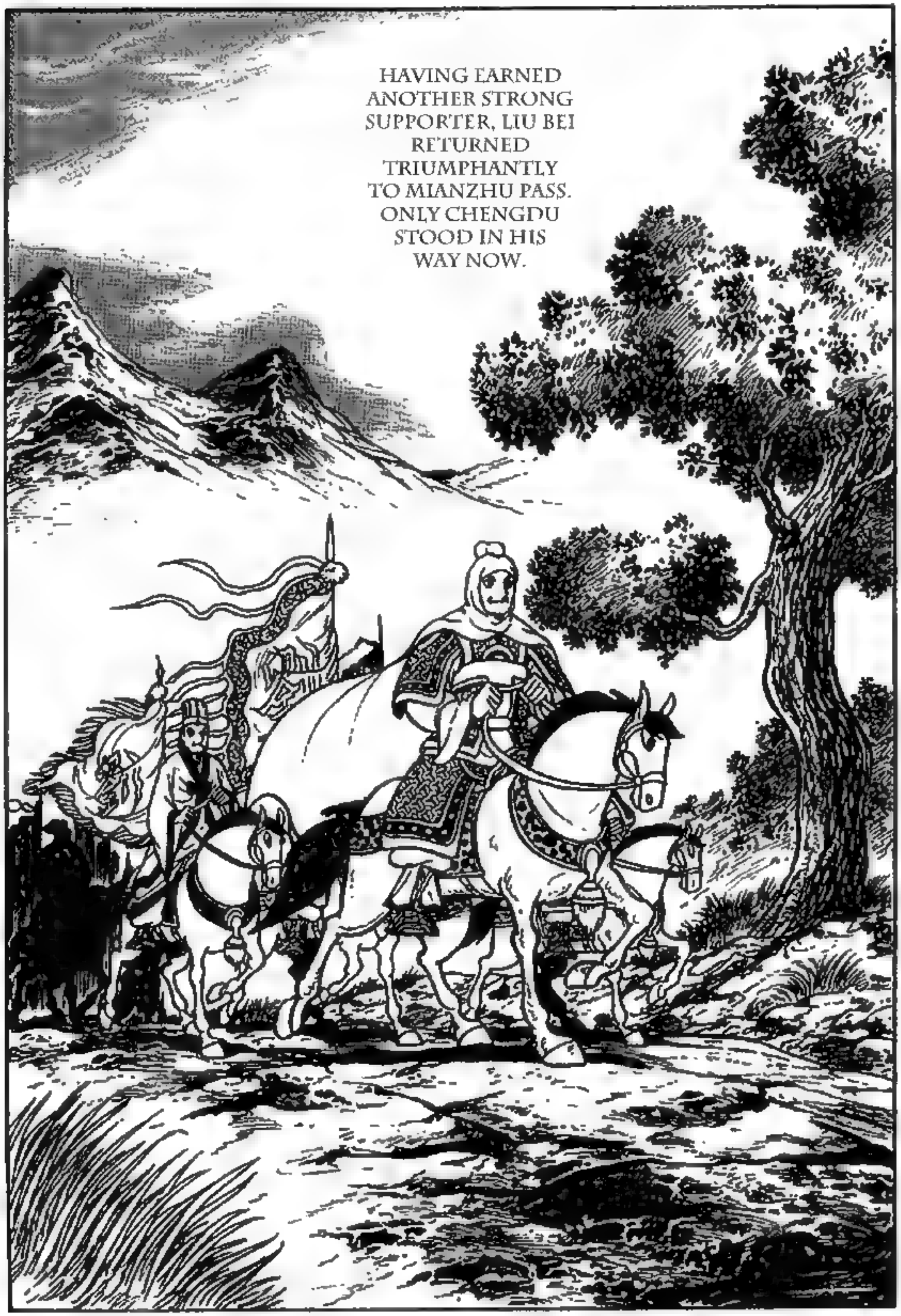
AND THANK YOU, MA CHAO, FOR JOINING MY CAUSE.

I'VE PREPARED A BANQUET TO WELCOME YOU ALL. COME THIS WAY.

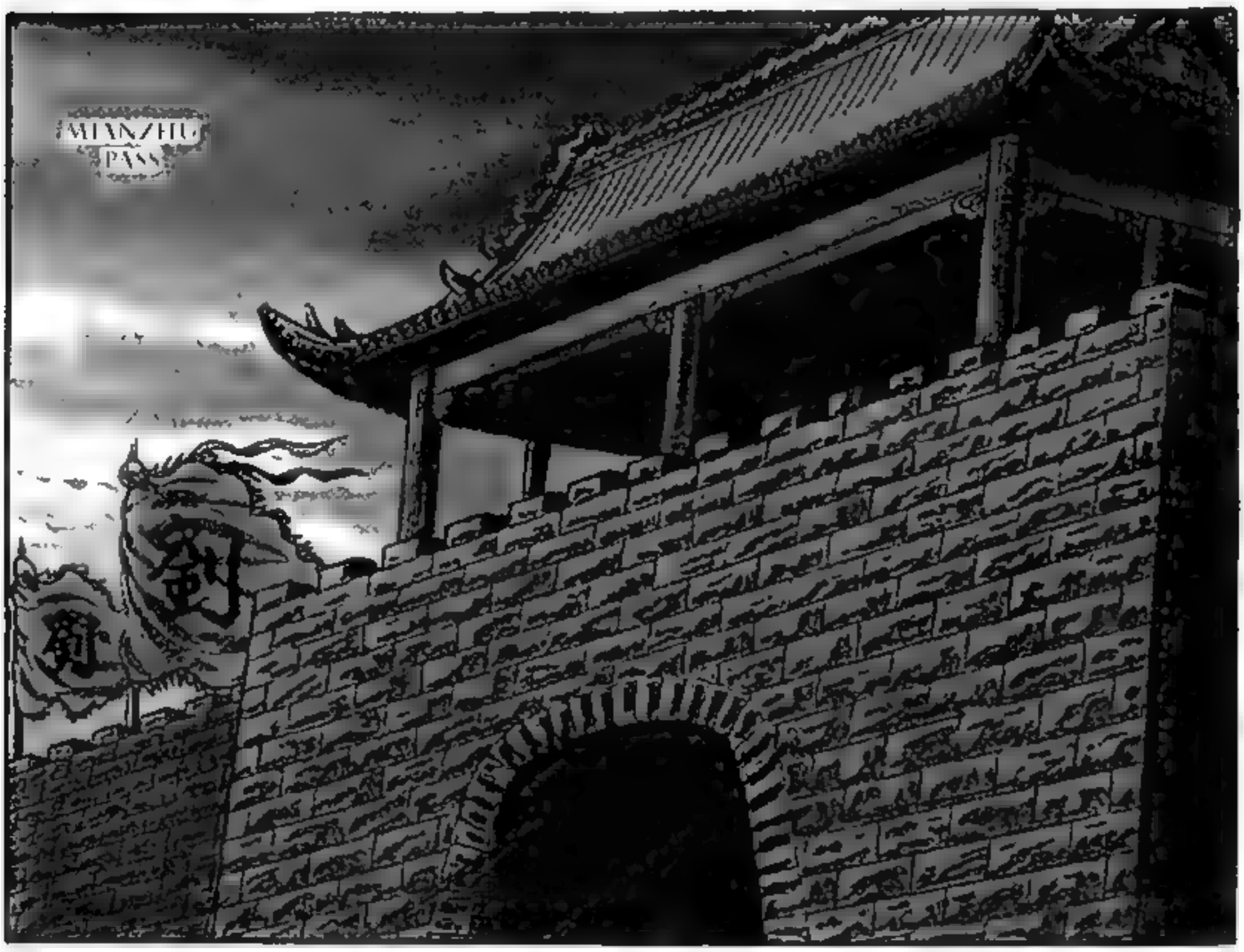
MA CHAO WAS MOVED BEYOND WORDS.

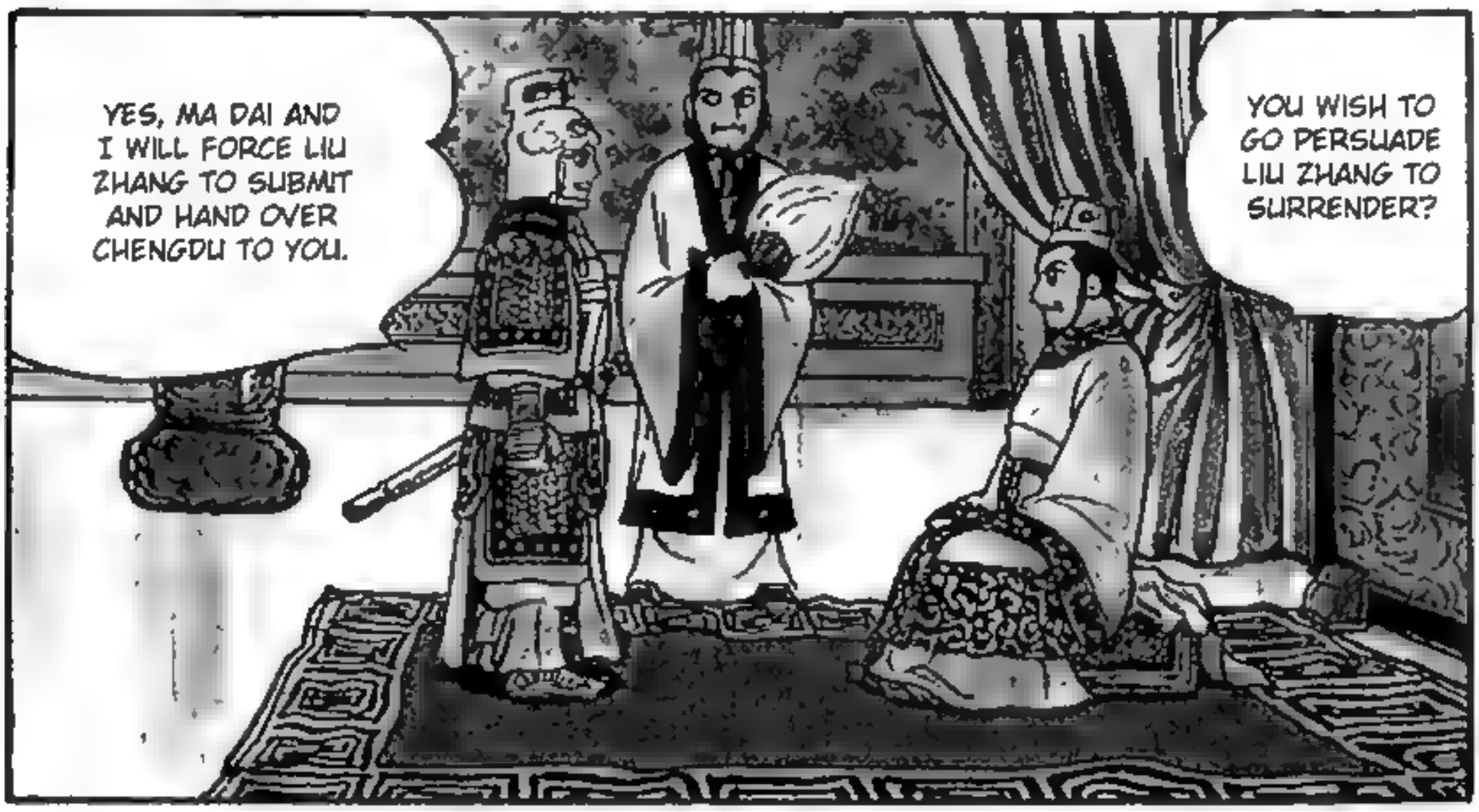
MA CHAO WAS GIVEN THE GUEST SEAT OF HONOUR, RIGHT NEXT TO LIU BEI.


I FEEL AS IF I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT BETWEEN THE STORM CLOUDS.
YES?
MA DAI.
TRULY, THERE IS NO GREATER BLESSING THAN TO MEET THE RIGHT LORD.


HAVING EARNED
ANOTHER STRONG
SUPPORTER, LIU BEI
RETURNED
TRIUMPHANTLY
TO MIANZHU PASS.
ONLY CHENGDU
STOOD IN HIS
WAY NOW.

# CAPTURE OF CHENGDU



IF HE THINKS HE CAN CAPTURE THE CITY BLOODLESSLY, THEN WE SHOULD LET HIM TRY BY ALL MEANS.

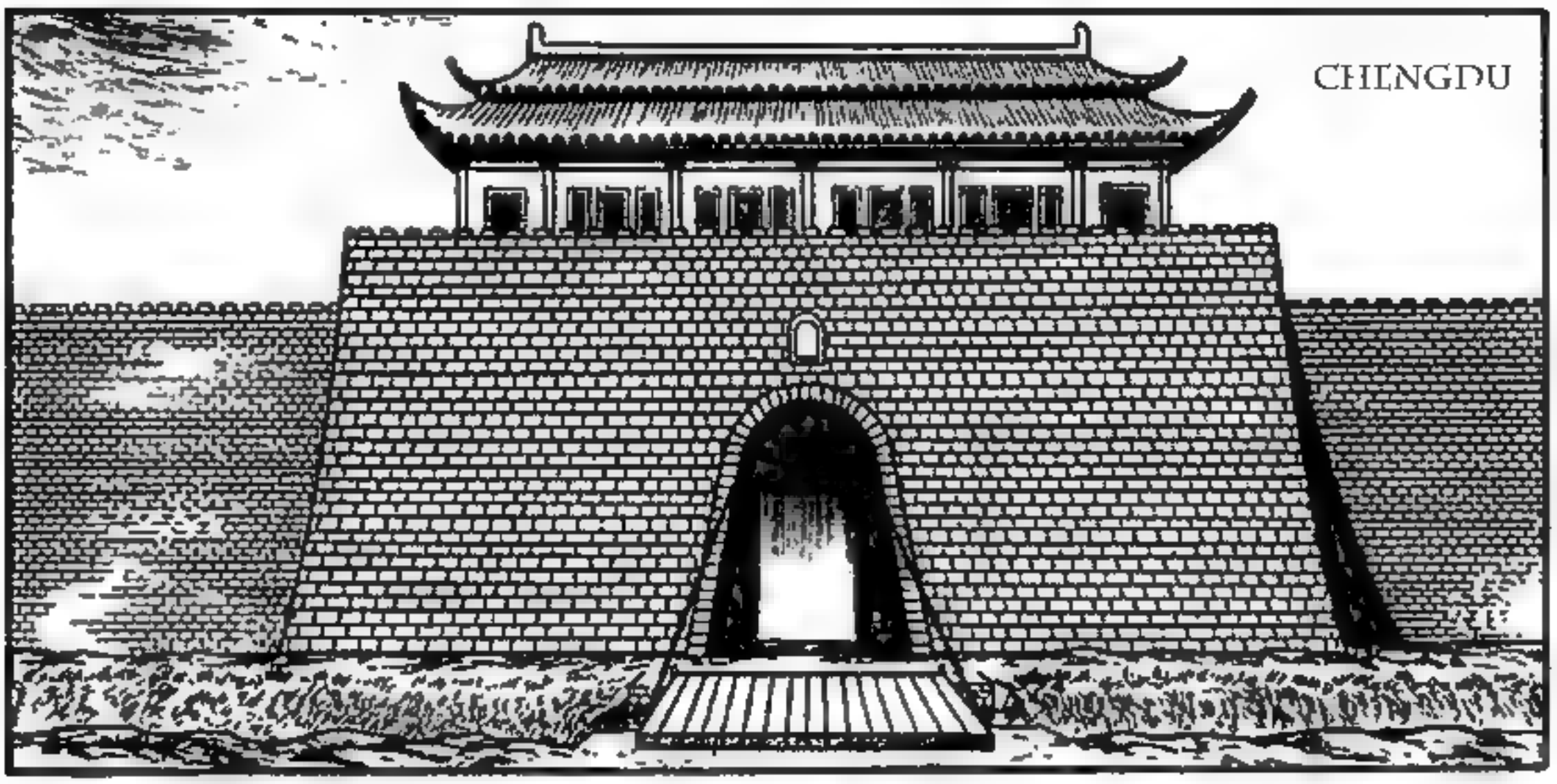
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KONGMING?

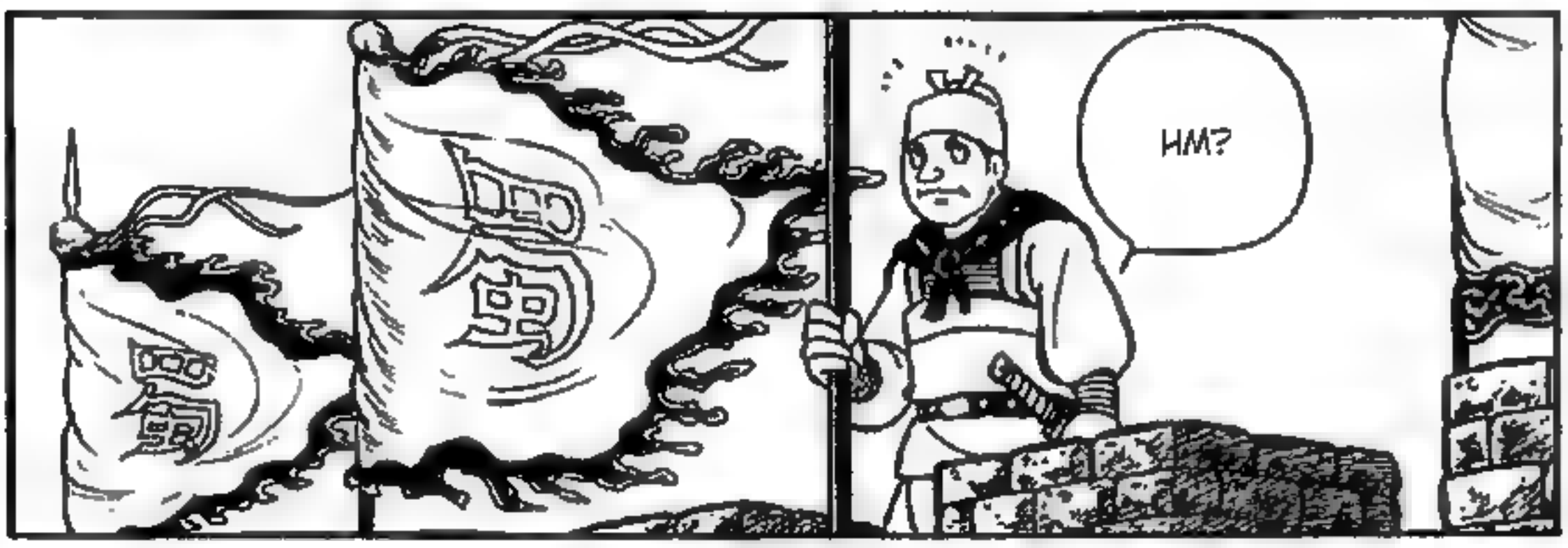
THANK YOU, MY LORD.

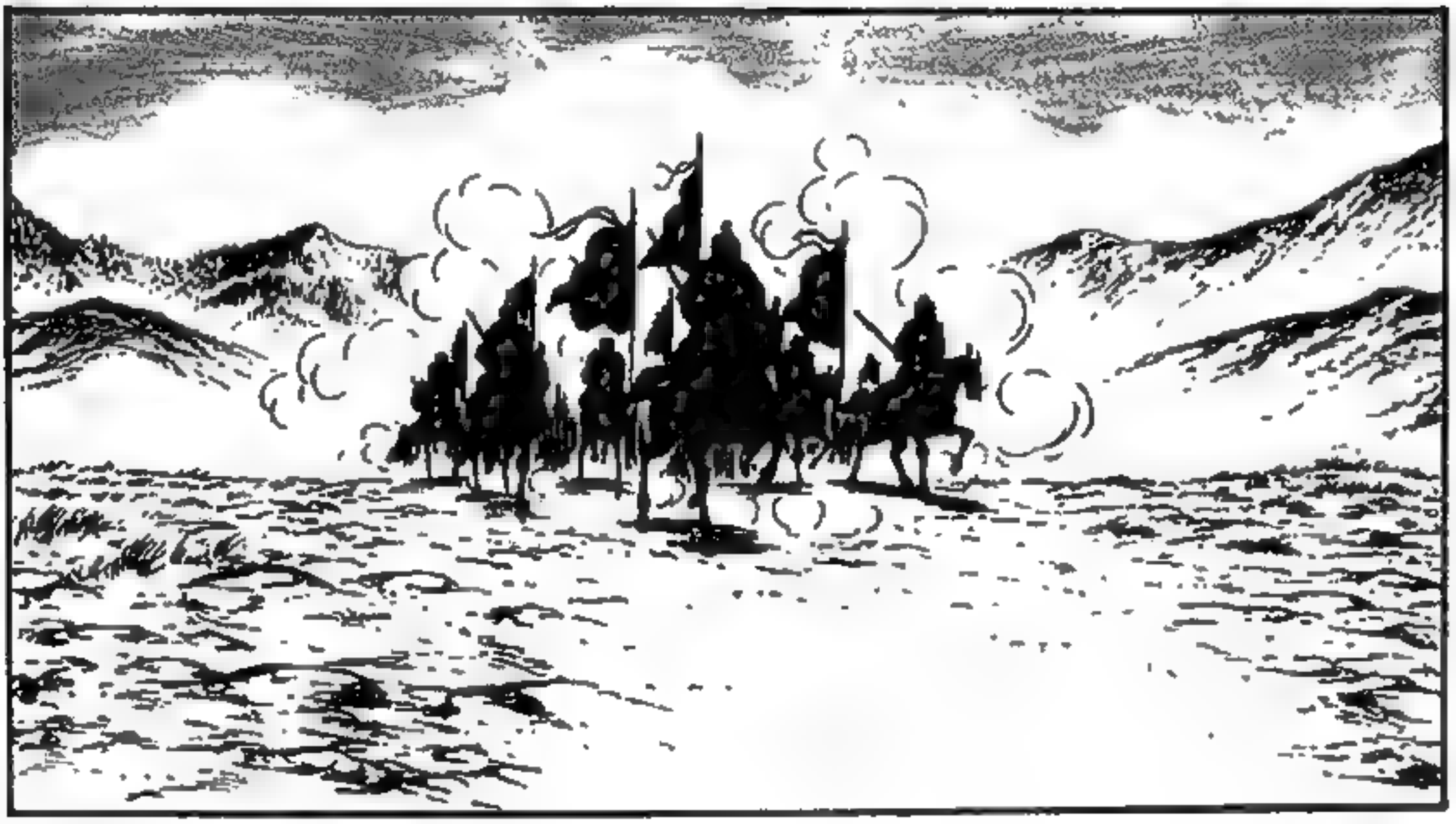
I BID YOU SUCCESS.

YES, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS THINKING OF.

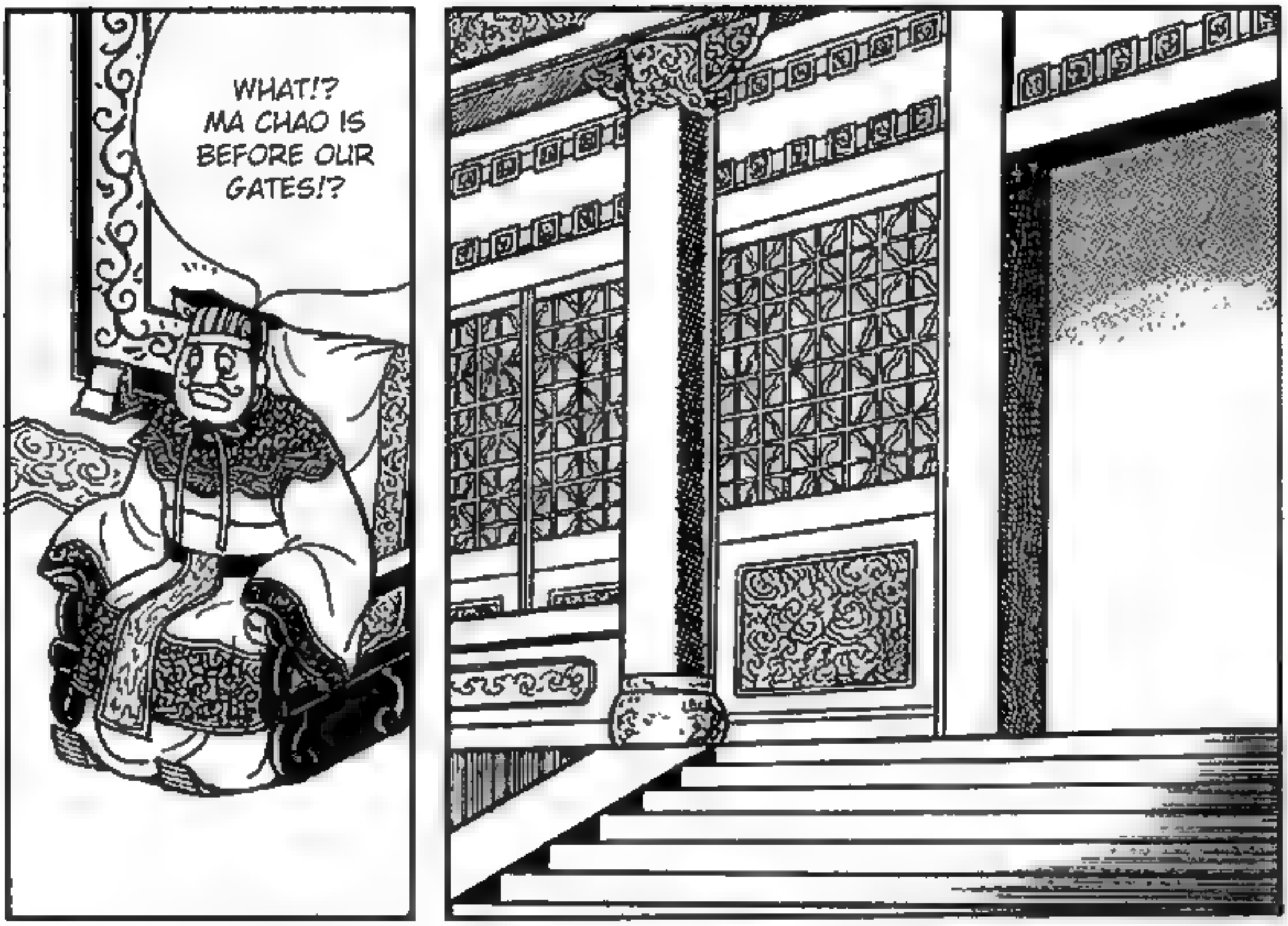
FOR YOUR PERSUASION, I ADVISE INFORMING LIU ZHANG ABOUT ZHANG LU'S AMBITIONS.

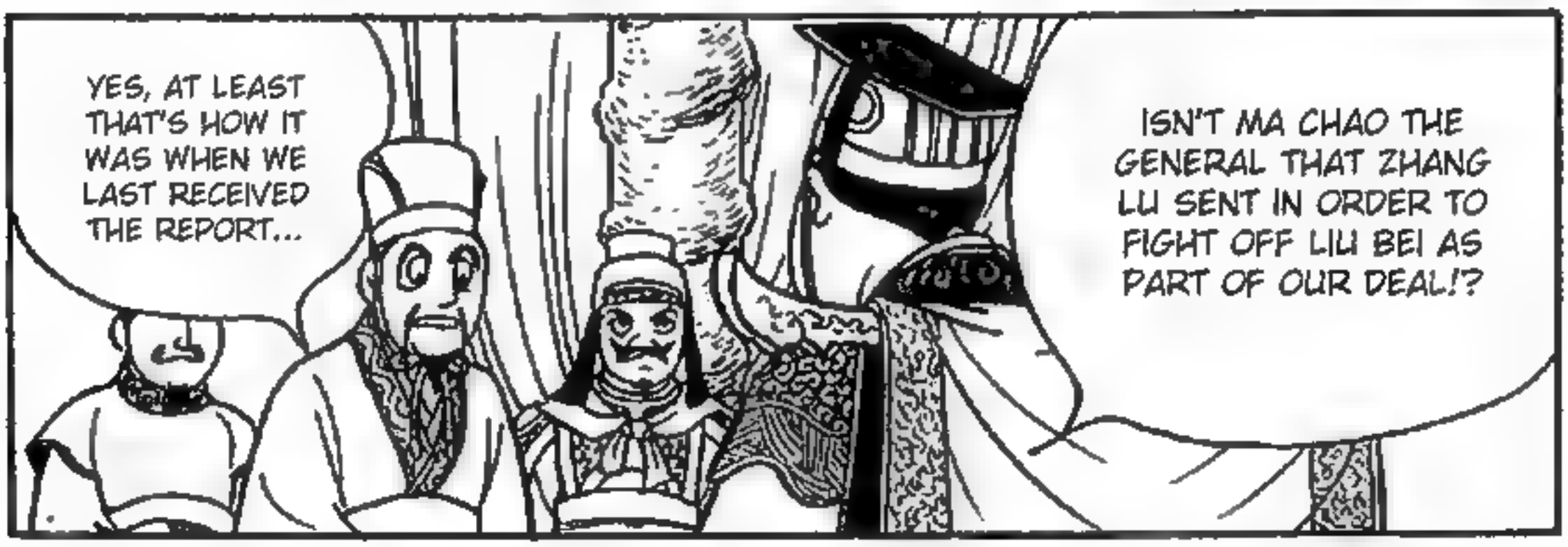

CHENGDU


HM?

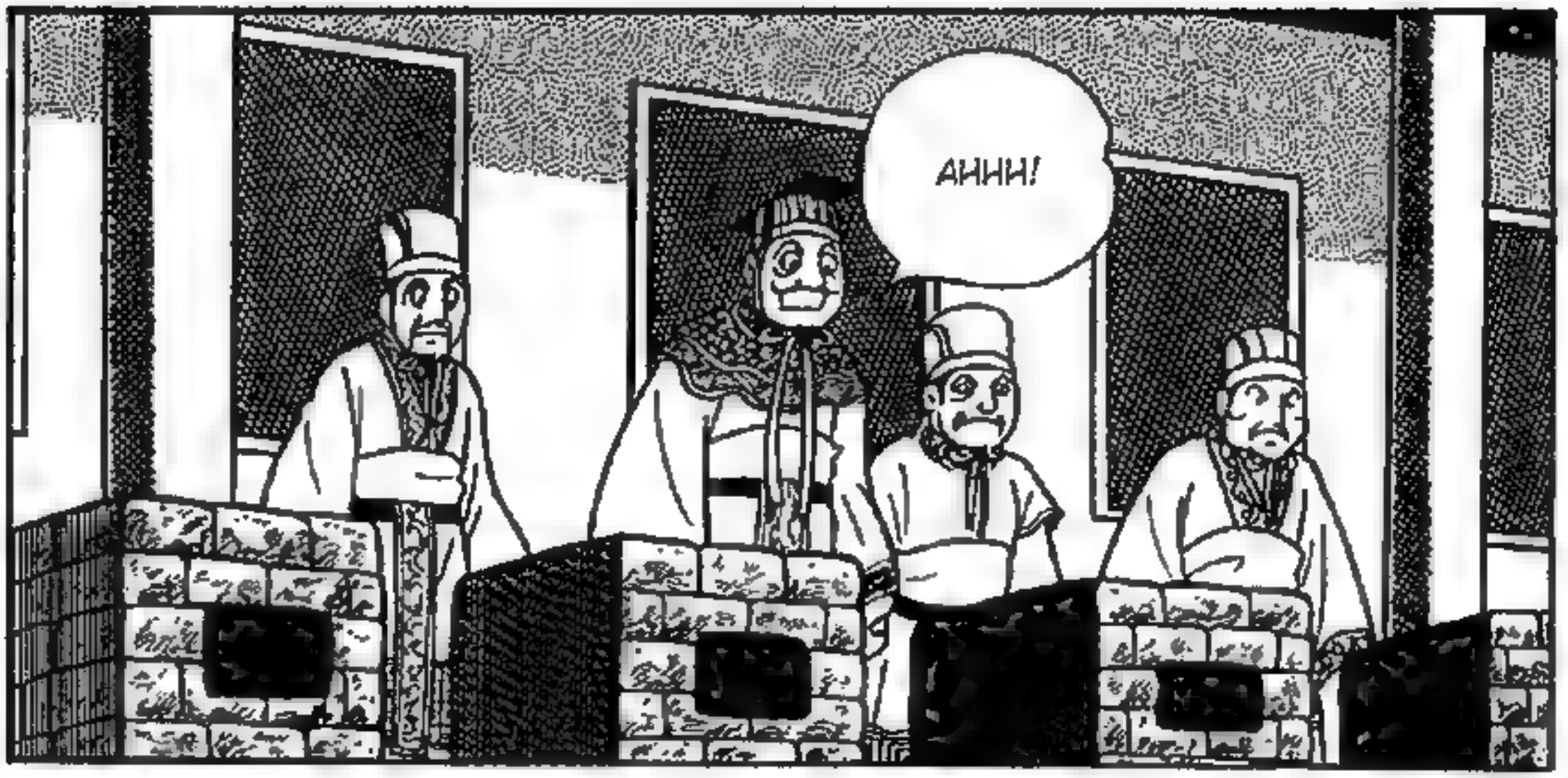


*MA (馬)


WHAT!? MA CHAO IS BEFORE OUR GATES!?


YES, AT LEAST THAT'S HOW IT WAS WHEN WE LAST RECEIVED THE REPORT...
ISN'T MA CHAO THE GENERAL THAT ZHANG LU SENT IN ORDER TO FIGHT OFF LIU BEI AS PART OF OUR DEAL!?

THEN WHAT'S HE DOING HERE AT CHENGDU?


AHHH!

YES, I AM LIU ZHANG!

ARE YOU THERE, LIU ZHANG!?

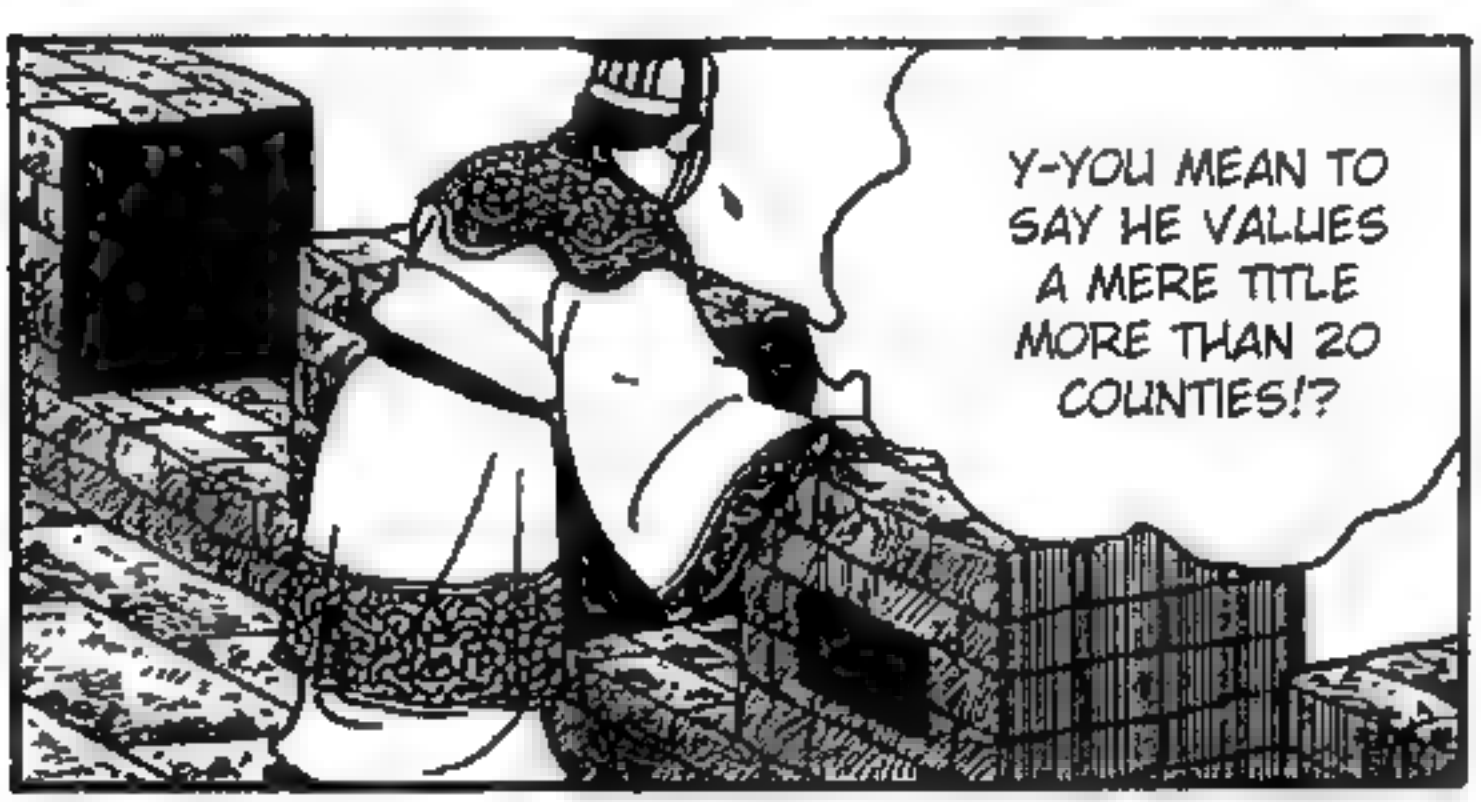
WHAT!?

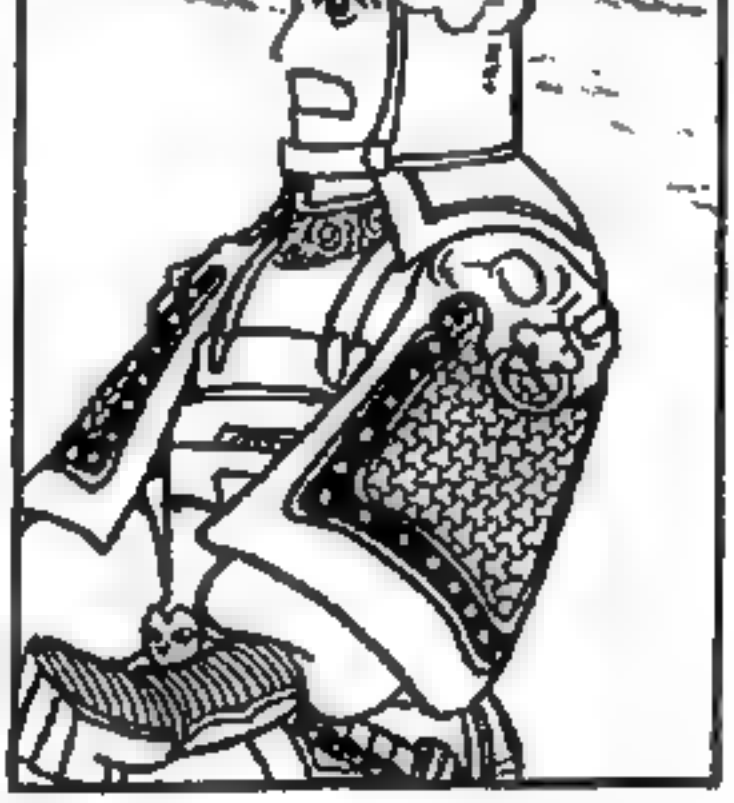
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS ZHANG LU TRULY DESIRES?

YOU SEEM TO BE UNDER THE BELIEF THAT YOU CAN BUY HIS PROTECTION AT THE COST OF 20 COUNTIES,

WHAT!?

BUT YOU COULD NOT BE MORE MISTAKEN! ZHANG LU HAS WITH-DRAWN ALL HIS ARMY FROM SHU IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE TITLE OF PRINCE OF HANNING!


Y-YOU MEAN TO SAY HE VALUES A MERE TITLE MORE THAN 20 COUNTIES!?



YES, BECAUSE ZHANG LU KNOWS THAT EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAND OVER 20 COUNTIES, HE CAN EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER ALL OF SHU ON HIS OWN!

I COULD NO LONGER SERVE SUCH A MAN, WHICH IS WHY I HAVE NOW JOINED LIU BEI'S CAUSE!

KNOWING THIS, LIU BEI HAS PROMISED ZHANG LU HIS COVETED TITLE AS LONG AS HE WITH-DRAWS HIS TROOPS. DO YOU GET IT NOW? THERE ARE NO REINFORCEMENTS COMING YOUR WAY!

FOR ALL OF US WHO ARE STILL SUBJECTS OF HAN, IS OUR TRUE ENEMY NOT CAO CAO, THE TYRANT OF THE IMPERIAL COURT!?

NOW THINK VERY CAREFULLY, LIU ZHANG! WHAT LIU BEI WISHES IS TO TURN SHU INTO A MIGHTY STATE THAT CAN STAVE OFF CAO CAO'S AMBITIONS!

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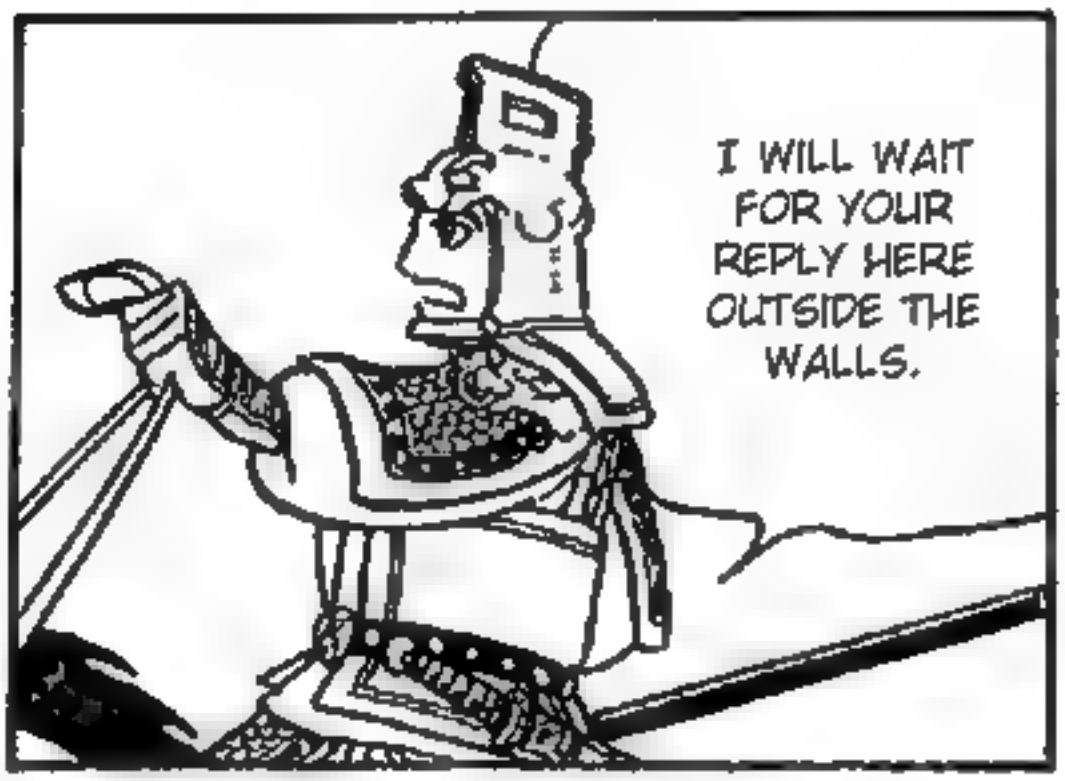

I WILL WAIT FOR YOUR REPLY HERE OUTSIDE THE WALLS.

WHAT AM I TO DO...? THERE IS NO MORE HELP COMING OUR WAY...
M-MY LORD, YOU MUST GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!

NO REIN-FORCE-MENTS...

I WISH TO END MY SAD LIFE...

CHENGDU BECAME FRANTIC AS ITS PEOPLE LEARNED THEY WERE NOW TRULY ENCIRCLED.

FOR TWO DAYS AND TWO NIGHTS, LIU ZHANG'S RETAINERS ARGUED WHETHER TO SURRENDER OR KEEP FIGHTING.

SOME OF THE GARRISON USED THIS TURMOIL AS A CHANCE TO SNEAK OUT THE GATES AND DEFECT

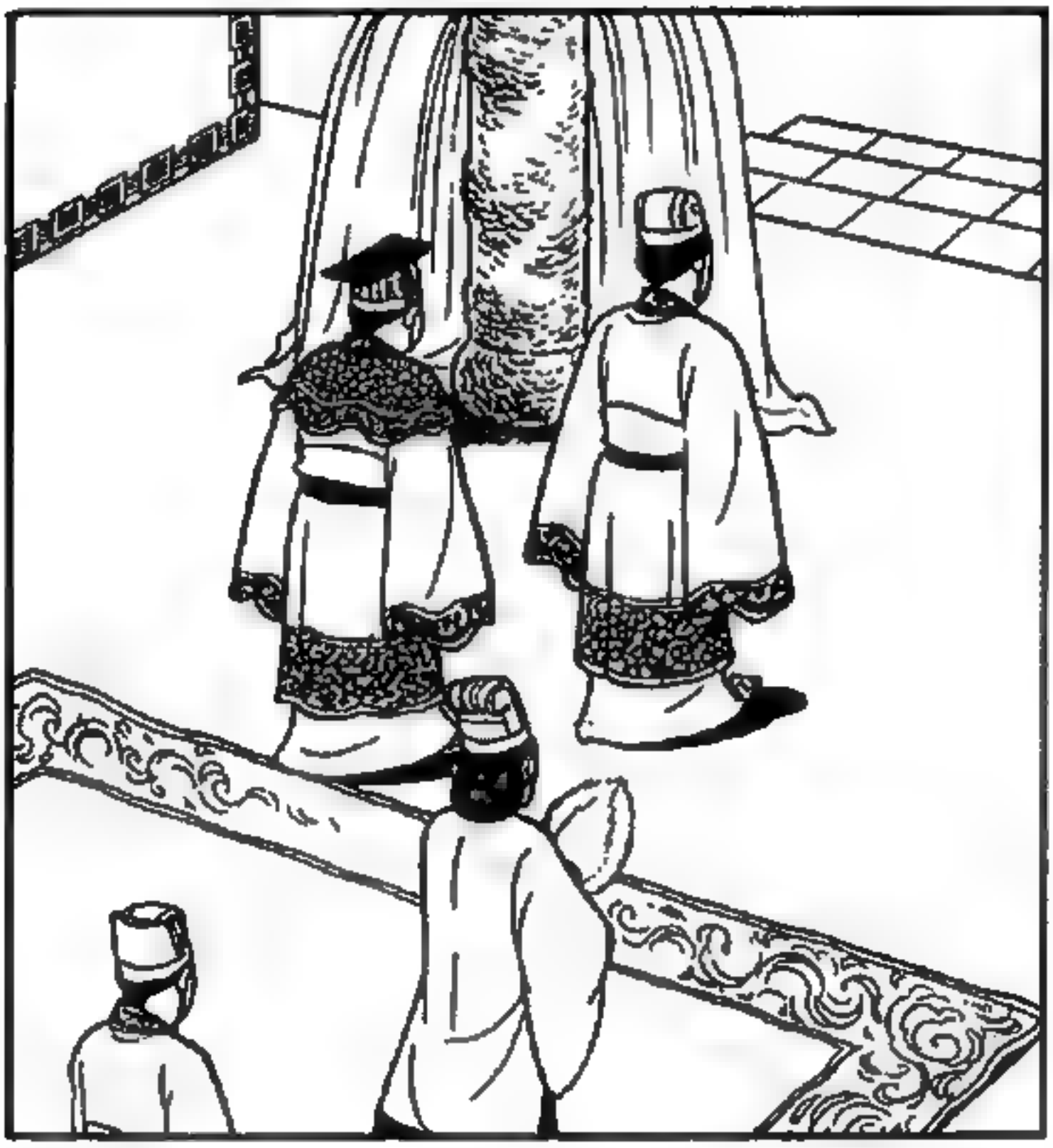
THE SIMPLE MINDED LIU ZHANG HAD NEITHER THE WILL NOR ABILITY TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT ANYMORE HE WOULD SURRENDER

YES, I UNDERSTAND.

MY INTENTIONS ARE TO PROTECT THIS LAND FROM CAO CAO'S ASPIRATIONS AND BRING PEACE TO THE REALM. I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE ACTIONS I HAD TO TAKE.

THEN LET US GO MEET YOUR RETAINERS.

STARTING TODAY, I, LIU BEI XUANDE, WILL RULE OVER SHU. ANYONE WHO OBJECTS TO MY RULE IS FREE TO LEAVE. I WILL NOT CRITICIZE YOU.



BUT FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN, I HOPE YOU WILL ASSIST ME IN BUILDING A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS STATE. THAT IS ALL.

AT ONCE, LIU BEI REWARDED THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF HIS CAMPAIGN,

AND OPENED GRANARIES TO HAND OUT RICE TO THE IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE OF SHU.

THEY ARE OVERJOYED BY YOUR ENLIGHTENED AND COMPASSIONATE RULE, A FAR SIGHT FROM LIU ZHANG'S INCOMPETENT RULE.

HOW ARE THE PEOPLE RESPONDING TO MY RULE?

SPEAKING OF LIU ZHANG...

IS THAT SO?

ABSOLUTELY. TWO LORDS CANNOT EXIST IN ONE STATE. WE MUST PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF SHU LOYALISTS GATHERING UNDER HIS BANNER.

BUT HE HAS NO AUTHORITY LEFT. IS THERE REALLY A NEED TO GO SO FAR?

IT IS TIME HE IS SENT TO JINGZHOU.

A WISE CHOICE.

FINE, I SHALL FOLLOW YOUR ADVICE.

MNN...

KONGMING APPOINTED LIU ZHANG WITH THE HONOURARY TITLE 'GENERAL OF PRESTIGE' AND SENT HIM TO JINGZHOU, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

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電子書籍版

# 三国志

## 35

## 横山 光輝

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